

**IT'S ALL CONNECTED**  
ISSUE 318 FEBRUARY 2018  
100% CANADIAN  
SINCE 1982

# common ground

FREE MAGAZINE

**if you care**  
**car share!**

**Oil's Deep State**  
**The politics of debt**  
**The crime of climate denial**  
**Premier Dave Barrett, true NDP**  
**Dr. Shiv Chopra Health Canada whistleblower**



# Helping people attain optimum health.

cleanse • replenish • revitalize

Megahome Water Distiller



Patented Insoles

Radiant Health Sauna



Structured Water Units



Amethyst Bio-Mat



Forever Alkaline Water Stick Purifier

Who shops at Triangle?  
People who want to transform their health

Springless Mini Trampoline



Kenrico Lifetime Ion Shower Head



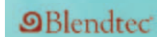
SpinaliS chairs



The Real Champion of Juicers



New Designer Series Blender



250.370.1818 | 1.888.370.1818 | 770 Spruce Avenue, Victoria | [www.trianglehealing.com](http://www.trianglehealing.com)

Triangle Healing offers an amazing range of well-researched products that enhance well-being!

## JOY of the MOUNTAINS

Voted #1 Immune Product

For fighting colds, flus and numerous other infections, choose an Oil of Oregano your family can depend on. Joy of the Mountains is voted #1 by Canadian families year after year, because it works. An independent UBC antiviral study confirmed the superior performance of Joy of the Mountains: 2-4x more effective than other leading brands.\* The difference? Oregano is all we do! We're committed to creating the very best, whatever the cost, no cutting corners. With today's virulent bugs, we all need a high-performing Oil of Oregano. Trust Joy of the Mountains when your health is on the line.



[joyofthemountains.com](http://joyofthemountains.com)

Available in natural health food stores, select grocery stores and pharmacies.

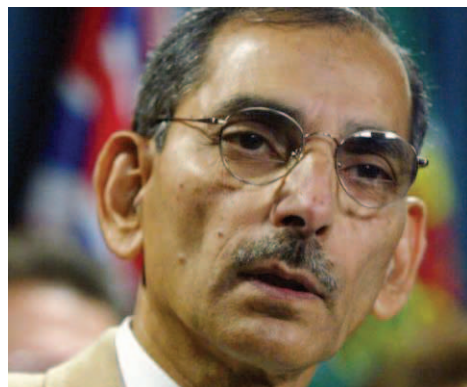
\*Reference: Anti-Influenza virus activities of commercial oregano oils and their carriers. Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Science 2012; 02(07) 214-18.



# Tribute to Shiv Chopra

A champion of truth, integrity and food safety (1934 - 2018)

by Helke Ferrie



That's when Canada received a hefty dose of Gandhi's political philosophy. Gandhi summed it up in the Sanskrit word satyagraha (grounding in truth). Not only corruption is infectious, but satyagraha is too. Shiv received support not only from his immediate colleagues, Drs. Margret Haydon, Gerard Lambert, and others, but more than 200 Health Canada scientists wrote to then Health Minister Alan Rock in September 1999, demanding that the govern-

ment stop serving corporate interests and return instead to serving the public interest.

During these years, Dr. Chopra and his colleagues were supported by PIPSC, the 36,000-member strong Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. "PIPSC scientists don't squeak, they roar!," their information pamphlet asserted, objecting to the pressures put onto Health Canada scientists to do the bidding of corporations and ignore the law. They also pointed to the increasing deregulation designed to accommodate corporate profits and undermine public safety. PIPSC expressed its outrage at gag orders imposed on Health Canada staffers, which even forbade them to publish in scientific journals. A precedent setting legal case in federal court occurred in September 2000 when Justice D. Tremblay-Lamer ruled that Health Canada could not place gag orders on scientists because a civil servant is responsible to the public, not the government of the day. Equally helpful were the media whose relentless exposés exasperated many politicians of the day.

## Fierce defenders of food safety

The government's aim, regardless of which party was in power, was to move Health Canada away from risk assessment and towards risk management (the US model), but they did not expect such resistance. To this day, Big Pharma works along the lines of managing harm and death as part of doing business, not preventing harm.

*continued p.8 ...*

*Civil disobedience becomes a sacred duty when the state becomes lawless or corrupt. The first step to fighting injustice is to make it visible. – Mahatma Gandhi*

Shiv Chopra was born in India. He was 13 years old when independence from Britain was achieved amidst the blood bath of 'Partition' and Gandhi's assassination. After obtaining his degree in veterinary medicine in India, he also received a Ph.D. in microbiology from McGill in the 60s and became a drug and vaccine evaluator for Health Canada in 1969, joining its veterinary division in 1987. There, he observed with increasing alarm the systemic corruption of Canada's health policy as the federal government put increasing pressure on him to approve drugs that were already known to be harmful. Yet he stubbornly insisted on the safety studies and tests that Canadian law requires before he would approve these veterinary drugs.

These antibiotics and growth hormones, used to increase the weight and size of food animals to increase profit, are not metabolized/detoxed out of the animal, but instead wind up being ingested by people who eat this meat. Because consumers cannot metabolize them either, their health is compromised and drug residues end up passing through their urine and into the public water supply. They also contribute to antibiotic resistance.

After observing the corrupt drug approval process present in his department, Dr. Chopra decided not to keep quiet and he began to blow the whistle:

# Effective, Safe, Backed by Science.

Trusted by families for over 20 years

Get empowered to Revolutionize Your Mind & Body Health at an upcoming seminar.

**FEB. 17-18 VANCOUVER WELLNESS SHOW**

## Achieving Mental & Hormonal Well Being

- Embrace Your Journey to Health!

CELESTE STEPHAN

**FEB. 16-18 WELLNESS EXPO, WINNIPEG**  
**MAR. 2-4 THE NEW EARTH EXPO, EDMONTON**  
**MAR. 9-11 WELLNESS EXPO, CALGARY**  
**MAR. 23-25 BODY SOUL & SPIRIT EXPO, REGINA**

## Achieving Brain & Thyroid Health

- Rising to your Potential!

DAVID STEPHAN

For over 20 years, Truehope has been on a mission to bless the lives of humanity by providing individuals and families with the knowledge and products necessary to substantially elevate their mental and physical wellbeing. Despite the intense opposition that has resulted from setting a new standard in achieving brain health... Truehope continues to press forward, ensuring that Canadians have easy access to health supplements that are transforming lives. Whether it be for overcoming a mental health diagnosis or simply improving the function of the brain and body, Truehope is committed to empowering you to live a more fulfilling, drug free life.

*Available at a fine supplement retailer near you!*

For more information about Truehope's upcoming seminars and products, follow us at [@truehopecanada](https://www.truehopecanada.com), [facebook.com/truehopecanada](https://www.facebook.com/truehopecanada) and/or visit [truehopecanada.com](https://www.truehopecanada.com)

# common ground

**Publisher & Senior Editor** - Joseph Roberts  
**Managing Editor** - Sonya Weir  
**Accounting** - Maggie Si  
**Layout & Production** - perubluesky.ca

## Contributors:

Robert Alstead, Jeremy Appel, Mariana Ramos Capelo, Dr. Peter Carter, Alan Cassels, Helke Ferrie, Eoin Finn, Reimar Kroecker, Bruce Mason, Mac McLaughlin, Vesanto Melina, Gwen Randall-Young, David Suzuki, Elizabeth Woodworth

## Editorial & Distribution Inquiries

Tel. 604-733-2215 Toll Free 1-800-365-8897  
 Fax 604-733-4415  
 Sonya Weir editor@commonground.ca

## Advertising & Resource Directory

Joseph Roberts | Tel. 604-733-2215  
 joseph@commonground.ca  
 Sonya Weir | Tel. 778-227-2939  
 editor@commonground.ca

**Events listings:** editor@commonground.ca

**Classifieds:** editor@commonground.ca

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011171  
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to  
 Circulation Dept., Head office  
 ISSN No. 0824-0698

## Head Office

Common Ground Publishing Corp.  
 3152 West 8th Ave.  
 Vancouver, BC V6K 2C3

## Reach Common Ground's great audience

Over 250,000 readers per issue.  
 Survey shows 3 - 4 readers/copy, plus online at  
 www.commonground.ca and our Facebook link.

100% owned and operated by Canadians.

Published 12 times a year in Canada.

Annual subscription is \$75 (US\$75) for one year (12 issues). Single issues are \$6 (specify issue #). Payable by cheque, Visa, MasterCard, Interac or money order.

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable inks. All contents copyrighted. Written permission from the publisher is required to reproduce, quote, reprint, or copy any material from *Common Ground*. Opinions and views expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers or advertisers. Common Ground Publishing Corp. neither endorses nor assumes any liability for any and all products or services advertised or within editorial content. Furthermore, health-related content is not intended as medical advice and in no way excludes the necessity of an opinion from a health professional. Advertisers are solely responsible for their claims.



[www.commonground.ca](http://www.commonground.ca)

## features

- 3 **A tribute to whistleblower Shiv Chopra**  
Helke Ferrie
- 5 **John Horgan – is he walking his talk?**  
Bruce Mason
- 6 **Charging ahead with car sharing**  
Robert Alstead
- 10 **The new shingles vaccine: hype?**  
Alan Cassels
- 12 **Oil's Deep State: Kevin Taft interview**  
Jeremy Appel
- 15 **Remembering Dave Barrett**  
Bruce Mason
- 16 **BC Hydro until debt do us part**  
Reimar Kroecker and Eoin Finn
- 20 **Science betrayed – the crime of denial**  
Elizabeth Woodworth and  
Dr. Peter Carter



## in every issue

### CULTURE

- 11 Lower cell phone bills  
INDEPENDENT MEDIA  
Mariana Ramos Capelo

### ENVIRONMENT

- 9 Consumerism no longer serves us  
SCIENCE MATTERS  
David Suzuki

### HEALTH

- 13 Taking care of your heart  
NUTRISPEAK  
Vesanto Melina

### PSYCHOLOGY

- 21 Human rights for all?  
UNIVERSE WITHIN  
Gwen Randall-Young

### STAR WISE

### RESOURCE DIRECTORY

### EVENTS

### CLASSIFIED

David Suzuki said large mega projects like Site C Dam, the proposed new pipelines, Tar Sands and LNG put us on a bus travelling at high speed towards a concrete wall while we debate where we are sitting. Some are asleep on the bus, unconscious of where politicians are going and who drives them. This edition of *Common Ground* contains a clear call to action from the best independent minds because our economy, environment, climate and future generation are heading for that immovable wall. We are waking up and taking control. There are better choices to be made. Read about them here in *Common Ground*.

*Courage my friends. It is not too late to build a better world*– Tommy Douglas

The Dalai Lama Center for Peace + Education presents

**HEART-MIND 2018**

**TICKETS  
ON SALE:  
REGISTER  
NOW!**

*Take Care of Yourself*

**The Science and Practice of Well-Being  
February 23 - 24 | Langley, BC**

**EARLY BIRD  
PRICING  
UNTIL  
DEC 15**



MARIA LeROSE



CHASTITY DAVIS



DAN SIEGEL



RICK HANSON



LINDA LANTIERI



PATRICIA JENNINGS



KIMBERLY  
SCHONERT-REICHL

For more info or to register: [www.dalailamacenter.org](http://www.dalailamacenter.org)





# John Horgan on the record

## Is he walking his talk?

by Bruce Mason



Last March, when BC was awash in costly ads attacking John Horgan, describing him as “Say Anything,” “Flip Flop,” “Angry” and “Spineless,” *Common Ground* asked the then-opposition-leader to carefully lay out and explain his pre-election platform.

Sensing, correctly, that only the NDP could end 16 long years of neo-liberalism, we videotaped and posted the extensive interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwtiLzC5pck> as well as on our website at <http://commonground.ca/john-horgan/>. We also published and made available tens of thousands of free copies in print (April 2017), with the magazine’s headlines reading: *Time For Change. Make BC Better*. We were told by many NDP and Green insiders that it had made a difference; mercifully, Christy and Co. were shut down.



To a growing number of voters, including former supporters, angry activists and sad and disenchanted citizens, Horgan’s agenda is hidden, surprising and alarming.

That was then, this is now, on the eve of the first full Horgan NDP budget. Post-election, Premier John Horgan grinned through the skin of his teeth, boasting, “The majority of British Columbians voted for change!” Fast forward six months and we now know, or should know,

much more about the leader of the razor-thin minority government. To a growing number of voters, including former supporters, angry activists and sad and disenchanted citizens, his agenda is hidden, surprising and alarming.

Central to this undeniable and justifiable concern, and outrage, is the unfathomable, multi-billion dollar Site C “decision” to flood a 100km sacrifice zone in the irreplaceable Peace River Valley.

However, Horgan is also simply ruling out, or second-guessing, among other things: legislation to halt foreign housing ‘investment,’ returning BC Ferries to government and freezing Hydro rates, while, apparently, just tooling around Kinder Morgan, fudging on Reconciliation and a fair “last chance” transformation of our badly flawed and

broken first-past-the-post voting system.

Meanwhile, NDP lobbyists like Bill Tieleman have joined forces with the Liberals, such as Susan Anton, to kill the urgent call for proportional representation. There are many questions, few answers and a discomfiting, even infuriating silence, or mumbled rationalizations by cabinet ministers and back-benchers, who campaigned against what now appears to be new NDP policy.

“Wait,” we are told for the budget in February. In the meantime, the fundamental question: What did John Horgan say and mean? Really.

Below are highlights from the 2017 *Common Ground* video interview:

### John Horgan on Site C:

I’m dedicated to do what I can, if fortunate to win the election, to make substantive changes and leave a planet that’s healthy... Interestingly, Dr. Harry Swain, chair of the federal-provincial joint review panel on environmental, economic, and First Nations impacts of largest public works, in his report on the Site C dam, said Hydro has a responsibility to look at geothermal.

Yet there hasn’t been a penny invested... And wind and solar power – other alternatives – to complement our sources, but the Liberals have been short-sighted in that regard. But as climate changes, we’re seeing different weather patterns, not as much snowfall... a thoughtful government would ask, ‘How can we supplement our water hydro-based system with technologies not dependent on water?’... We have more energy than we need, demand is declining. We used to export to the US at a handsome profit, playing the markets. Now, the US is awash in electricity.

So we’ve got nowhere to sell it and more than we need. The average price of electricity in 2006 was \$35/megawatt hour. The average price today is the same. Yet

we’ve been buying new supply at \$100, \$110, \$120/mwh and building Site C at a conservatively estimated \$90/mwh. You can’t buy high and sell low forever; it’s falling on us and on our families.

### On housing affordability:

“Look at what’s happening around us. We see speculative investments and headlines: “Get Out of Gold and Get into Condominiums in Vancouver.” When housing stock becomes a commodity, you’ve got a problem. It’s a fundamental right, not a speculative investment, in my world anyway, and for the vast BC majority... People are being priced out of the market and the development community, building condos to sell, rather than units to rent.

### On Reconciliation with First Nations:

“Rights and title aren’t just theoretical. I’m excited about the certainty it gives us. To invest in BC, on a land base, talk to First Nations about how to do it.

### On BC Ferries:

“Almost 800,000 people live in ferry-dependent coastal communities. I’ve forgotten more about this than the Liberals know. They don’t understand ferries, that’s why they do so poorly on Vancouver Island. The ferry system is an extension of our highway system. So, yes, we’re going to look at those three major Crowns – ICBC, BC Hydro and BC Ferries – with a magnifying glass and find a better way forward that has people at the centre.”

### On agricultural land:

As climate change continues, our imported food sources, Mexico and California, become less viable. It will be more important than ever to protect our arable land and put it to good use, not just growing hay.

### On electoral reform:

... in 2009, I voted in favour of STV. It was defeated, but perfection is the enemy of progress. Let’s make progress. Whatever this is, it has got to be better.

There you have it, on the record. Post-interview (on tape) Horgan noted, people were “devastated by Trudeau’s backing out on proportional representation,” for which he been “pretty categorical.” But the PM also deceived voters on climate action, transparency, corruption and pipelines, as well as electoral reform.

Horgan now seems only slightly better than Clark and a long way from what many in BC voted for. He is breaking fragile trust and authenticity. Lose that and it all goes – like some burst dam. ◀

**Bruce Mason** is a Vancouver and Gabriola Island-based banjo player, gardener, writer and author of *Our Clinic*.



# Charging ahead with car sharing

Vancouver leads North America with about 3,000 shared vehicles. Now, if it could just electrify the fleet.

by Robert Alstead

Maybe we should have marked it on the calendar? Ten years ago: our personal car-free anniversary. The day we broke free from hefty insurance premiums, maintenance costs and parking fees. Free from the temptation to reach for the car keys when a bike would do. Free to use the precious space that had been liberated in our garage. Free from the responsibility – ecological and economic – that goes along with owning a car.

But then it never really felt like a clean break from motordom. We may have given up our worn-out 1991 Mazda 626, but after putting down \$750 for joint membership in car share co-operative Modo, we, along with several thousand others, became owners of a whole fleet of vehicles.

Transportation in this city and province still revolves around cars. As our family has grown over the years from two to three to four, there's always been the temptation to buy our own.



**Carsharing still means thousands of dollars a year saved over solo ownership, while enjoying the benefits of a diverse and regularly updated fleet of vehicles.**

That we've remained car sharers this long is largely down to Vancouver's increasing cycle friendliness, as well as reasonably good, albeit strained, transit system. Paying as we go with Modo has served us well when combined with our bikealot lifestyles, and the list of other options for those times when we need four wheels has just kept growing: Zipcar, car2go and Evo. Peer to peer Turo ("Airbnb for cars") recently launched in BC and there's even a hybrid bike/electric vehicle (EV) share, Veemo, being piloted at UBC. Actually, Veemos are three-wheels, but you get the picture.

## Gearing up

When, a decade ago, we joined Modo, or the Co-operative Auto Network as it was known before its brand makeover in 2011, we booked a car over the phone and

then retrieved the car key from a secure box at the back of the car. There were slips of paper to fill in with miles driven and gas bought at the beginning and end of every trip. Now, you can book by app, web or phone, in increments of 15 minutes.

Trip logging is automated and you key in and out with an electronic, key ring fob. There's a good variety of vehicles. We now have a 2017 Hyundai Elantra on our block where, until recently, the nearest family sedan was based a five-minute bike ride away. When elderly relatives visit, there's various minivan options and a pick-up truck down the road is my go-to for lugging furniture. If we don't drive during the month, we don't pay anything.

Modo started life 20 years ago as an SFU thesis project with two cars and 16 people in Vancouver's West End. Today, it has over 50 different vehicle models in a 600-strong fleet spread across Metro Vancouver, in Greater Victoria, Saanich and Nanaimo. The Co-op's 18,000 members can book anything from an eight-seater Kia Sedona mini van in Fairfield, Victoria, to a 2017 Toyota Prius V at Vancouver City Hall, a 2015 orange Scion coupe at Lafarge Lake-Douglas SkyTrain in Coquitlam or a Nissan frontier truck outside Surrey City Hall.

It's not perfect. Don't try last-minute booking that seven-person mini van at long weekends. Plus, the two-way carshare model, exemplified by Modo and its counterpart Zipcar, where you have to return the car back to its home location at your pre-chosen time, can seem inflexible.

Modo's fees have also been creeping up; in the last year, they went from \$4 an hour and \$0.40 per kilometre to \$5 an hour and \$0.25 for Modo Plus (i.e. share-holding) members.

"A price change is a pretty soul searching exercise here," says Patrick Nangle, former CEO of Purolator who, as new Modo CEO, brought in new rates in August. "It's the last thing ever we want to do because of our value proposition. Affordability is top of the list."

Nangle defends the new pricing structure as necessary to cover basic operating costs, for better quality cars and better maintenance of vehicles so they're not



Modo CEO Patrick Nangle at the wheel of a Rav4 hybrid. Photo courtesy Modo.

scratched and dented. They're also cleaned more often.

Certainly, for occasional drivers like us, carsharing still means thousands of dollars a year saved over solo ownership, while enjoying the benefits of a diverse and regularly updated fleet of vehicles. There's also those carsharing perks: being able to park in resident-only spaces, not having to worry about insurance and gas or changing the winter tires. It's covered.

What's more, Modo's day rates, up to 250 km over 24 hours for \$80, with taxes included, are hard to beat and the winter season overnight rates, from 7pm to 9am of \$12.50 plus \$0.25 per km, are a gift for night owls.

"We are a co-operative. We are owned by the members. It is sharing in the truest sense of the word," says Nangle, in his small office in a tower opposite the Waterfront Skytrain station on Granville Street. "So we run the business just to break even and a little bit more than that. We're not trying to make a big profit."

Nangle is keen to press home Modo is not always the best option. He welcomes new entrants on Vancouver's carsharing scene, seeing them as "complementary" rather than competition, and stresses that sustainability is part of the bottom line. While his wife needs the family Volvo to get to work, Nangle himself buses and bikes to work when he can. "We advocate very strongly in Modo to walk, ride your bike, use the bus first. If you need to use a car, use a shared car. But don't take a car as your default choice to go three blocks to buy some milk."

## Are you going one way?

Sometimes you don't want to return a car to its original starting point as with the Modo two-way model. "Floating" or "one-way" car shares car2go and Evo, which launched in Vancouver in 2011 and 2015, have gone some way to filling the gaps, particularly as they grow their Vancouver fleets and expand the geo-fenced



“home” areas in which their cars operate. The one-way carshare model is ideal for urban trips: going to a restaurant, cinema or ball game. You can book any free car via an app, drive to your destination and walk away.

Vancouver has the largest member base of the 11 North American locations that Daimler-owned car2go operates in, says Tim Krebs, the company’s communications manager. There are 137,000 Vancouver members.

Unlike Modo, with its diverse fleet, car2go’s 1,100 vehicles are a few select models: the familiar Smart cars, as well as more roomier Mercedes-Benz CLA and GLA models.

The car2go home area spans most of Vancouver and North Vancouver, with satellite parking at UBC, BCIT and the Pacific Gateway hotel for airport access. You can go outside the home area, but you must return back home to end your trip.

With BCAA-owned Evo, it’s been a similar story of rapid expansion. “We’ve grown the fleet from 250 to 1,250 in just a short two and a half years,” says director Tai Silvey. As well as Vancouver, Evo is in New Westminster (since May), North Vancouver and university campuses like UBC, SFU and BCIT. It has satellite parking also at Grouse Mountain and the airport.

Evo’s fleet is 100% comprised of Toyota’s hybrid subcompact, the Prius C, a roomy hatchback that can fit five people and bikes or skis on the roof rack.

You can start an Evo trip using the app or, unlike with car2go, a dedicated keycard, with reservations possible up to half an hour beforehand. Customer sup-



port is good and a simple, but useful, feature is the Evo button on the dash to make hands-free calls to customer support.

Which one to join? A lot of people join both as membership fees are negligible and it gives you more driving options. Both companies also have promotions where they waive the sign-up fee and offer free minutes.

### From carshare to EV share

In recent months, a succession of countries have announced they are going to ban conventional fuel combustion engine (ICE) cars, including China, India, the UK, Norway and France. Some cities will call time on gas-fuelled cars even sooner than national governments: Paris is going free from noxious car emissions by 2030, Oslo is turning roads into bike lanes for its 2019 ban and Oxford will phase in its ban, even on road gritters and garbage trucks, between 2020 and 2035.

GM is going all-in on EVs, Shell is buying up charging stations by the tens of thousands, and a rebranded Toyota doesn’t want us to call it a car manufacturer anymore; it’s a “human movement company” now.

Canada may still be pushing dilbit pipelines and its consumers buying bigger vehicles, but it is pricing carbon. At the provincial level, the BC government’s decision to remove bridge tolls may be exacerbating traffic congestion, but some form of mobility pricing is expected to replace it. “Greenest city” Vancouver has joined Paris and 10 other cities in pledging to decarbonize the “major areas” of their cities.

### The trend is clear

Around a quarter of BC’s greenhouse gas emissions are from road transport. Car share operators, who have a frequent turnover of vehicles in their fleets, would seem well-placed to take a chunk out of that. Not everyone can afford to buy a new EV. They probably can afford to share one.

However, there are only three all-electric carshare vehicles in Vancouver: Modo’s 2 Nissan Leafs and a Prius PHEV.

What’s holding us back? Lack of charging stations is the response from all of the car share operators I talked to. “I know the city of Vancouver is taking steps towards increasing their infrastructure, but there’s a long way to go,” says Evo’s Tai Silvey. “We’re very focussed on creating the greenest fleet possible,” he says, adding, “The first step to that in our opinion is hybrid and that’s why we have a fully hybrid fleet.”

Patrick Nangle says Modo has been gathering data on the duty cycle of 40 Modo gas vehicles to build a business case with Fraser Basin Council and West Coast Electric Fleets for evolving its fleet more quickly toward EVs. Currently, 20% of Modo’s fleet is hybrid or electric. “There is some subsidy from provincial government, but it’s still more expensive. We don’t believe people will pay more. So how do we make sure that we get the right level of utilization, the right economics on the car. We want to introduce more. We think it’s the right thing to do,” says Nangle.

Car2go already has exclusively EV fleets in Stuttgart, Amsterdam and Madrid with 1,400 vehicles in total. Yet the company retired its electric Fortwo Smart cars in EV-friendly Portland because the long charges meant the cars were out of rotation for too long. Last year, car2go switched its all-EV fleet in San Diego to gas after a major charging station provider went bankrupt. Parent company Mercedes Benz will be phasing out gasoline Smart cars for electric only, so the trademark tiny car will gradually be replaced in North American car2go fleets by the larger Mercedes GLA and CLA vehicles.

Vancouver has around 250 public, level 2 charging stations and, importantly, as far as hardworking shared cars are concerned, only one DC fast charging station, which the City of Vancouver runs in conjunction with BC Hydro at Empire Fields. Fast charging stations allow for top-ups that take minutes rather than hours, but cost much more to install. BC Hydro has set up 30 fast charging stations across the province since its launch in 2012, with around 27 more being planned as



part of “Phase 2” of the fast charge network rollout.

By comparison, Amsterdam, which saw the launch in October of another free-floating, all-electric car share with 100 Hyundai IONIQ EVs, has 2,200 public charging stations with more fast chargers about to go into gas station forecourts.

City of Vancouver climate policy analyst Ian Neville says that Europe’s 220 volt electrical standard versus North America’s 120 volt system makes them a “little more advantaged.” Amsterdam’s municipal government also has more control over land use, which helps when it comes to putting in kerbside charging stations. But Vancouver can learn from Amsterdam’s experience.

“Part of it is it’s hard to predict right now,” says Neville. “We know with autonomous and shared, together that’s going to have a very different impact, but it’s a hard thing to plan infrastructure.”

BC Green Party leader Andrew Weaver has been calling on the provincial government to make it easier for industry to install charging stations and sell electricity. At the moment, businesses must register as a utility to resell electricity or give it away for free as Tesla has done for Tesla owners with its 10 BC Superchargers. “BC Hydro is the single biggest barrier to the introduction of electric vehicles in the province,” says Weaver.

Self-driving, wirelessly charging, shared pods may become common on city streets in the 2020s, but Vancouver’s immediate focus is on fast-charging public stations as well as steadily adding residential charging in new buildings. By 2020, the City expects to have deployed eight to 10 EHubs, which will have DC Fast Charging units plus Level 2 stations for charging over longer periods.

Given what we know about their impact on our climate and health, it’s clear that gasoline vehicles have overstayed their welcome in our cities. We are on the cusp of a huge transition in mobility.

Nangle points out that Metro Vancouver expects 700,000 people over the next 20 years. “At current ratios, they will bring almost half a million cars. So you’ve got this tidal wave of cars coming. So 3,000 shared cars today. I would be happy if it was 10,000. And it won’t be just Modo. It will have to be a combination of different kinds of business models to serve different kinds of needs. And better transit system, and better bike lanes, and, and, and...”

**Please see March Common Ground for part two.**

**Robert Alstead** covers transport, technology and climate change at [www.icycle.ca](http://www.icycle.ca)

photo by Robert Alstead



...Shiv Chopra from pg. 3

For example, in his book, **Corrupt to the Core**, Shiv commented that, in 2001, Bayer lobbyists, in the presence of Diane Kirkpatrick (then the Director General of the Veterinary Drugs Directorate), opined: “The risk of one in one million people dying due to the use of any products, including veterinary drugs, pesticides, etc., was considered to be manageable. I disagreed, saying that this was not so according to the Canadian Food and Drugs Act. I stressed that if Canada were to apply this definition to risk and knowingly allow even one person to die, someone else above my head will have to make that decision.”

Kirkpatrick, unwilling to accept Dr. Chopra’s refusal to approve the highly toxic antibiotic Baytril for use in food animals, “spoke as if on behalf of Bayer,” asking Shiv “to explain why it should not be allowed ... in Canada while the USFDA [U.S. Federal Drug Administration] raised no objection to it. My response ... was that I couldn’t care less about what the USFDA did and that I must apply due diligence to my job description under the Food and Drugs Act of Canada.”

With the above in mind, it’s no surprise that an internal 1992 government memo stated that the reason Dr. Chopra was consistently passed over for promotion was because he could not “be groomed into a senior management position”; that he was not “a team player”; that he appeared unable to understand “the North American way of doing business.” These “deficiencies [were due to] his racial and cultural background.”

The conflict between assessment and management is the key which ultimately led to Chopra, Haydon and Lambert being fired on July 14, 2004 for “insubordination.” In a nutshell: if health policy is governed by management instead of risk, abnormal drug test findings can be ignored. Drug assessment requires investigating how the liver, especially in rats, reacts to a new chemical compound. If liver enzyme production signals toxicity, the proposed drug is too dangerous. Rats are endowed by nature to metabolize/detox tremendously harmful compounds which other test animals, such as mice whose enzyme system is virtually identical to humans, can never survive.

Dr. Haydon, for example, delayed the Bovine Growth Hormone application by nine years because Monsanto would not provide the legally mandated rat studies. Since Dr. Haydon already had some proof from scientific literature that this synthetic hormone not only caused mastitis in cows, but also birth defects in calves, this evidence would have been amplified had Monsanto complied with the mandatory rat studies. In 1994, her office was broken into and all her files were stolen. This event eventually led to a Senate investigation chaired by the late Eugene Whelan, starting on October 22, 1998. In an attempt to stop the truth on Bovine Growth Hormone from coming out, and knowing that a Senate’s subpoena to testify must be obeyed, the government “coached” Shiv and his colleagues on what to say at the hearing and ordered him to testify from a two-thirds blacked-out version of his own official report.

When Dr. Chopra was sworn in at the Senate, he asked, “Which oath takes precedence? The one I just made to God or the one I made as an employee of the

ministry?” Senator Eugene Whelan told him to “go with God” and the whole rotten story came out. That is why Canada does not currently allow the use of Bovine Growth Hormone, a proven carcinogen and endocrine disruptor. And that is why the European Union and other jurisdictions banned it too.

Shiv Chopra and Margaret Haydon did not get the Order of Canada for stopping Bovine Growth Hor-

When Dr. Chopra was sworn in at the

Senate, he asked, “Which oath takes

precedence? The one I just made to

God or the one I made as an employee

of the ministry?” Senator Eugene

Whelan told him to “go with God” and

the whole rotten story came out.

mony’s release into the Canadian food supply; they were fired instead. Being fired was a family affair at the Chopras. His wife, Dr. Nirmala Chopra, was head of the Pre-Marketing Review Section at Health Canada’s Bureau of Medical Devices from 1979 to 1993. She insisted on checking out immunological reactions to breast implants, but that legally-required satyagraha approach was inconvenient and she was fired. Today, about 300,000 women receive such implants annually in the US. Nirmala’s Health Canada story was documented in Nicholas Regush’s 1993 book *Safety Last*.

#### Canadian Government no longer oversees drug safety

Today, Dr. Kelsey [who saved American women from the drug Thalidomide in the 1950s] would probably also be fired because in 1995 the US passed “cost recovery” legislation. On January 6, 1996, Canada adopted the same, without parliamentary debate, in secret, through an Order in Council. This transferred the responsibility for drug safety and efficacy from Health Canada civil servants (mandated to act in the public interest) to the manufacturers of those drugs, thereby removing all independent oversight. Health Canada employees were informed that now their “client” was not the Canadian public “but the companies” applying for drug approval documentation. To safeguard against another Margaret Haydon, time limits were placed on regulators reviewing drug applications.

This regulatory abomination is still in place and was followed up in 2003 with the so-called ‘Report on Plans and Priorities’ which absurdly opined that the Food and Drugs Act has “too narrow a focus on safety ... and does not allow for taking into account considerations other than safety in managing health risk.” What was needed, said this report, was “to unleash business energies and reduce the regulatory burden on business.” Adding insult to injury, this report was followed up by “Health and Safety First,” the government’s plan describing “a higher


level of protection” by revamping the Food and Drugs Act such that drug manufacturers would be completely protected against all possible liability once their products passed into the market. Prime Minister Harper tried to make this happen with the infamous Bill C-51 in 2008. This enraged me so much that I published a book entitled *What Part of No! Don’t They Understand?* The first two copies, hot off the press, were personally handed to Harper. Then Shiv and I lectured on that proposed Bill in many venues, helping to put the breaks on it – for awhile.

In the January 11, 2018, issue of *Toronto Star*, Dr. Joel Lexchin, a public policy expert from U of T, informed us that, last October, Health Canada proposed increasing drug companies’ cost recovery fees to 90% in exchange for even faster reviews. But Dr. Lexchin stated that research shows that, if a review is mandated to be complete within 300 days, there is a one in five chance of serious post-marketing harm to people. If the review period is only 180 days, the incidence of adverse events rises to one in three. Dr. Lexchin proposes a “return to complete funding” by parliament ensuring responsibility only to Canadians. (That would be acting according to satyagraha. Don’t hold your breath.)

During the time that Shiv and his colleagues were fighting to protect us from cancer-causing, hormone-disrupting and antibiotic resistance-producing drugs, other scandals hit the world scene. For example, in 2004, FDA regulator Dr. David Graham started blowing the whistle about hundreds of thousands of deaths from Vioxx. And University of Toronto’s Dr. Nancy Olivieri refused to obey Apotex’s order to exclude “known liver failure” from patient medication consent forms. In 2017, the United Nations declared antibiotic resistance to be the greatest unfolding global health disaster, mainly due to antibiotic overuse in food-producing animals.

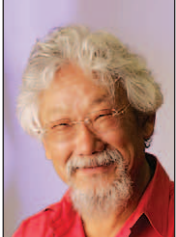
I am proud to have been Shiv’s friend for almost two decades and the publisher of his fantastic account of speaking truth to power: *Corrupt to the Core: Memoirs of a Health Canada Whistleblower* (2008). Having grown up in India myself, my visits to Shiv and Nirmala were always a bit like coming home. While Shiv cracked open cardamom pods for our chai, I took notes on background for upcoming events in courts and before Senate committees as the battle for safe drugs and food progressed.

Shiv gave us the perfect blueprint on how to achieve food safety because he said, “It is our divine right ... to eat and feed our families the food that the earth produces naturally.” His “Five Pillars of Food Safety” demand: 1) No pesticides; 2) No GMOs; 3) No animal hormones; 4) No animal antibiotics; 5) No rendered animal protein feeds.

All of us who eat owe a big debt of gratitude to Shiv Chopra for his scientific rigour and personal integrity. 

Originally published in **Vitality Magazine** (vitalitymagazine.com) by Helke Ferrie, helkeferrie@gmail.com Reprinted with permission, helkeferrie.com Support Democracy Watch, Council of Canadians, and shivchopra.com initiatives. **Corrupt to the Core: Memoirs of a Health Canada Whistleblower** by Shiv Chopra (Kos 2009) available on disk at shivchopra.com. Shiv Chopra inspired the Canadian Council on Food Safety Health at [www.foodsovereigntycanada.com/](http://www.foodsovereigntycanada.com/)





# Consumerism no longer serves us

**M**y parents were born in Vancouver – Dad in 1909, Mom in 1911 – and married during the Great Depression. It was a difficult time that shaped their values and outlook, which they drummed into my sisters and me.

“Save some for tomorrow,” they often scolded. “Share, don’t be greedy.” “Live within your means.” The most important: “You must work hard for the necessities in life, but don’t run after money as if having fancy clothes or big cars make you a better or more important person.” I think of my parents often during the frenzy of pre- and post-Christmas shopping.

We moved to Ontario after the Second World War. We were destitute. As Canadians of Japanese descent, we had been treated as enemy aliens and lost everything, including all rights as Canadian citizens. I needed a coat for the cold eastern winter so my parents purchased a new one, a big expense for farm labourers. Unfortunately, I was 11 and going through a growth spurt and quickly outgrew the coat so it was passed on to my twin sister, Marcia. She wore it for longer but also outgrew it and gave it to our younger sister, Aiko.

My parents boasted the coat was so well made, “it went through three children.” It’s been a long time since I’ve heard durability as a positive attribute of a product.

How did “throw-away,” “disposable” and “planned obsolescence” become part of product design and marketing? It was deliberate. Wars are effective at getting economies moving and the Second World War pulled America out of the Great Depression. By 1945, the American economy was blazing as victory approached.

But how can a war-based economy continue in peacetime? One way is to continue hostilities or their threat. The global costs of armaments and defence still dwarf spending for health care and education. Another way to transform a wartime economy to peacetime is consumption. Adam Smith, the father of modern economics, wrote in 1776, “Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production.”

Seized upon by the Council of Economic Advisers to the President under Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s, consumption was promoted as the engine of the economy. Retailing analyst Victor Lebow famously proclaimed in 1955: “Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption our way of

life... We need things consumed, burned up, worn out, replaced and discarded at an ever-increasing rate.”

We are no longer defined by our societal roles or political status (voters), but as “customers,” “shoppers” or “consumers.” The media remind us daily of how well we’re supporting continued economic growth, using the Dow Jones average, S&P Index, the price of gold and the dollar’s value.

Nature has long been exploited in commercials: the lean movement of lions or tigers in car ads, the cuteness of parrots or mice, the strength of crocodiles, etc. But now animals are portrayed to actively recruit consumers. I’m especially nauseated by the shot of a penguin offering a stone to a potential mate being denigrated by another penguin offering a fancy diamond necklace.

How can we have serious discussions about the ecological costs and limits to growth or the need to degrow economies when consumption is seen as the very reason the economy and society exist? ◀

Excerpted from **Consumer Society No Longer Serves Our Needs**. David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)

## T&T SPIRITUAL & WELLNESS CONNECTIONS PRESENTS

7<sup>th</sup> Annual T&T  
**Spring**

**WELLNESS FAIR**

### GET IN TOUCH

E-MAIL [INFO@TANDTVANCOUVER.COM](mailto:INFO@TANDTVANCOUVER.COM)  
WEBSITE [FAIR.TANDTVANCOUVER.COM](http://FAIR.TANDTVANCOUVER.COM)



### LOCATION

**POIRIER FORUM**  
633 POIRIER ST, COQUITLAM

### DATE & TIME

FRI MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> 4PM TO 9PM  
SAT MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 10AM TO 6PM  
SUN APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 10AM TO 5PM

### FEATURING

DEMONSTRATIONS SEMINARS  
MINDFUL WELLNESS VENDORS  
ARTWORK HOLISTIC HEALTH  
JEWELRY FOOD TRUCKS



[TANDTVANCOUVER.COM](http://TANDTVANCOUVER.COM)



[FACEBOOK.COM/TANDTVANCOUVER](https://FACEBOOK.COM/TANDTVANCOUVER)



# The new shingles vaccine

## Hype or good value for your money?

A ‘game changing’ new vaccine arrived on the Canadian market last month, promising to relieve you of the pain associated with shingles. Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which can appear as a blistering, painful rash that occasionally leads to complications. There is already a shingles vaccine on the market, but this new one, named Shingrix, is being promoted as “90% effective.” If it’s that good, why would anyone hesitate in getting it?

Since I have studied the marketing messages, I wondered whether Shingrix conforms to my theory that “the bigger the hype, the smaller the likely impact.”

If you were unaware of shingles up to now, that will soon likely change due to what seems to be a heavy, corporate-sponsored PR campaign designed to do what pharma campaigns do best: drive you to your doctor. In this case, by making the disease look incredibly painful and ubiquitous – one in three Canadians will get shingles we are told – our doctors’ offices will soon be flooded with people asking for this new vaccine.

Numerous talk shows on TV and radio, as well as newspaper and magazine articles, have warned of the dangers of the disease. The message here is simple and direct: if you want to avoid the dreaded shingles, you better get the shot. This is like other disease-mongering I’ve seen in the past where conditions like herpes, low testosterone or toenail fungus, among many other conditions, are running rampant and threatening the health and safety of populations. Fear sells and as any marketer knows, “You don’t sell the steak, you sell the sizzle.”

The corporate drug world is hoping this one pays off. FiercePharma (fiercepharma.com), a drug information news site, says that GSK, the manufacturer of Shingrix, “has big expectations for its new vaccine,” also noting, “Analysts have predicted more than \$1 billion in 2022 sales for the shot.” Health departments around the country are understandably hesitant to pay for the vaccine because it’s expensive and would add millions to our annual provincial drug bill. There is no firm price yet set in Canada, but in the US, the cost is \$280USD for the two-shot regime.

I can understand this hesitancy for three reasons. Given the nature of the research on the vaccine, surprisingly, few of us will ever get shingles (more on that in a bit). Secondly, given the research on the vaccine, based on a three-year trial in 14,000 people, the vaccine doesn’t seem very effective. The final, and perhaps the most worrisome thing, is the research which underpins the vaccine has a high risk of bias, which is to say, there is a high degree of doubt the results seen in the trial are even possible in the real world.

While governments everywhere will be asked to pay for this vaccine and seniors’ groups are already lobbying for coverage, I think we probably have better things to do with our health dollars.

For starters, the major clinical study paid for by manufacturer GSK shows a lot of promise, with newspaper headlines around the world promoting the vaccine as having an efficacy rate of “more than 90%.” That figure is essentially meaningless without important context. In the study of over 14,000 people over 50 who were followed for three years, half were given the vaccine and half the placebo. Of the 7,698 people who got the vaccine, nine developed shingles (a rate of about 0.1%). Of the 7,713 who got the placebo, 235 people got shingles (about 3%). This difference, of 2.9%, translates into what is called a NNV: numbers needed to vaccinate. In this case, it’s about 35, meaning that for every 35 people over 50 who get the two-shot dose of Shingrix, one case of the shingles will be prevented. Another way to say this is 34 out of 35 people will see no benefit whatsoever from the vaccine over three years.

**Do you want to spend \$300 on a vaccine for a one in 35 chance of benefit and a one in seven chance of being harmed? When a new drug or a new vaccine comes around, promising to be ‘game changing,’ everyone would benefit from a sober second opinion.**

One of the real concerns about shingles is whether it leads to complications such as neuralgia (nerve pain in your face or head). This only happens in about 10-15% of shingles cases and, in terms of the trial, it essentially showed doctors would have to vaccinate 261 people to prevent one case of neuralgia.

People bamboozled into thinking the vaccine is “90%” effective, as opposed to 2.9% effective, might be why we see seniors’ groups begging the government to pay for it. At a cost that could be as high as \$300 for the two shots of Shingrix, this means millions of dollars if you were to vaccinate everyone over 50.

While shingles can be nasty and debilitating for some, if we take this study into account, most people don’t develop shingles. In this study, only about 1% of the placebo population develop shingles each year and while that rate may increase with age, can we say this is really a major public health problem deserving of millions of dollars of public money being spent?

There is one other nagging problem with the research on Shingrix: it hurts. In fact, the company’s own reports detailed the commonly reported side effects of the vaccination, which include “pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, muscle pain, tiredness, headache, shivering, fever and upset stomach.” Over 80% of

the patients given the shot had some level of pain, as opposed to about 10% of the placebo patients.

My reading of this is the vaccine does not dish out an ordinary “ouchie” typical of when someone puts a needle in your arm. Commentators have explained Shingrix is an ultra painful shot because it’s an ultra potent vaccine. Compared to the placebo, the severity of the side effects of the vaccine were much more intense. The study showed 17% of the patients injected with the vaccine, versus 3% on placebo, had “grade 3” symptoms, defined as symptoms that “prevented normal everyday activities.” This gives a rate of 14% who were harmed to this level. The NNH (number needed to harm) is seven. So for every seven persons injected with the vaccine, one person will have “grade 3” symptoms and have difficulty functioning in everyday activities.

I don’t think the fear of a painful needle should prevent you from getting any vaccine, but there is a problem with this high rate of injection injuries: it blinds the study.

In other words, if a randomized controlled study is to be believed, patients and clinicians involved must be blind to which treatment individual patients receive. If you know that patients in group A suffer a much higher rate of a certain type of effect over patients in group B, it is much easier to discern whether they were getting the intervention or the placebo. In this case, if the treating doctor knows his patient is getting the vaccine versus the placebo, there may be subtle ways in which his assessment of the patient’s health changes. Basically, it injects a level of subjectivity into the results and we all know “unblinded” trials must always be treated with caution.

There is another type of bias at play here and it’s called “funding” bias. Also known as “sponsorship bias,” the fact is the manufacturer and the researchers had a financial incentive to see a certain result, unlike the independent researchers who were only interested in the ‘truth’ of the vaccine. Again, this means we have to be cautious in interpreting the results.

This is not to besmirch the reputation of the manufacturer or the investigators who studied the vaccine. But, as we do with any drug, we have to ask ourselves, “Is the research believable and if it is, is it likely to be of an overall benefit?”

This is what our doctors and you, the prospective patients, need to ask. Do you want to spend \$300 on a vaccine for a one in 35 chance of benefit and a one in seven chance of being harmed? We all need to be involved in ensuring governments and individuals spend their health dollars wisely. And that is why when a new drug or a new vaccine comes around, promising to be ‘game changing,’ everyone would benefit from a sober second opinion. **K**

Alan Cassels is a drug policy researcher in Victoria. Follow him on Twitter @AKECassels





# Lower cell phone bills closing the divide

In December, Canadians had a glimpse into what affordable cell phone packages could look like. The 'Big Three' – Bell, Telus, Rogers – released a limited-time deal that offered people 10GB of data and unlimited talk and text for \$60 a month. If anything, this “too good to be true” package demonstrated that Big Telecom can afford to charge a lot less for their services than they currently do.

But this is not just about having a cheaper cell phone bill at the end of the month. Lower prices for cell service is one of the stepping stones for bridging the digital divide that puts many at a disadvantage. In Canada, we pay some of the highest prices for cell phone services in the industrialized world. This makes it a lot harder for underprivileged individuals and their families to access the Internet and the array of socio-economic benefits it affords.

Try working, applying for jobs, accessing government services in a timely manner, looking up directions or basic information, accessing emergency services in remote areas or coordinating your life in today's world without a cell phone or Internet access. And we're not just talking coordinating tea with your friends; we are talking coordinating who will pick up your kids from

school if you are suddenly called into work or if a snowstorm hits. Without affordable access to telecom services, the barrier of difficulty for all these essential activities increases exponentially.

**Late in 2016, the government  
declared Internet to be a basic  
service, largely due to nearly 50,000  
Canadians who raised their voices.**

With the average 2GB cell plan cost in BC (about \$85) being the approximate equivalent of a day's work at minimum wage (\$11.35/hour) – not counting overage fees and the cost of other services like call display or voicemail – the sky-high prices for cell phone and Internet services that Big Telecom offer are unacceptable if we are truly committed to ensuring no one in Canada is left behind. The scenario looks a lot more grim if we take into account that most family households have more than one mobile phone.

What to do? At OpenMedia, we are running two cam-

paigns that tackle this issue head on. The first one concerns Internet infrastructure as a whole: our campaign for a National Broadband Strategy urges Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly and Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains to “implement a properly-funded national broadband strategy that includes lowering costs and increasing choice by structurally separating our networks from Big Telecom's grip.”

The second campaign tackles cell phone prices directly, where we ask Big Telecom to make their December offer permanent, not just a weekend extravaganza.

Speaking up en masse is incredibly powerful; at the end of 2016, the government declared Internet to be a basic service, largely due to nearly 50,000 Canadians who raised their voices.

There's no doubt that, together, we can help lower the economic barrier of access to telecom services and continue to work on making the digital divide a thing of the past.

For the latest updates, visit [openmedia.org](http://openmedia.org) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter @OpenMediaOrg

**Mariana Ramos Capelo** is a graphic designer and part of the communications team at OpenMedia, a community-based organization that works to keep the Internet open, affordable and surveillance-free. [openmedia.org](http://openmedia.org)

**SHAMANIC HEALING**  
WITH SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER  
**SONYA WEIR**  
(778) 227-2939  
sonyaweir@uniserve.com  
IN VANCOUVER [www.eaglefireshamaniccoaching.com](http://www.eaglefireshamaniccoaching.com)

Wild Oil of Oregano  
**Hedd Wyn**  
Essentials  
Wild Mediterranean Oil of Oregano

**Nature's Potent Panacea for People and Pets.**  
Powerful healing for skin problems, stomach and respiratory upsets, parasites, ticks, fungal infections, bacterial/viral infections, immune function and much more. Certified Organic. Your best friend deserves it.  
Available at fine health food stores. Learn more at [www.wildoiloforegano.com](http://www.wildoiloforegano.com)

**Bio-Holistic  
Dental Excellence**  
Dr. Serge Agafontsev, D.M.D.  
Full dental services including  
cosmetic dentistry and dental implants

Our goal for you is a healthy, beautiful, long lasting and self-maintainable dental condition. Call us today to book a free consultation.  
For a limited time we are offering a special rate to new patients. Call for details.  
66 Keefer Place | Vancouver | 604-708-6042 | [info@doctorserge.com](mailto:info@doctorserge.com)  
[www.doctorserge.com](http://www.doctorserge.com)

**Real Raw Food**  
Distributor of Organically Grown Truly Raw Foods

**WHOLESALE TO EVERYONE**  
Truly raw-nuts, seeds, dried fruit, cacao, herbs, seaweeds, coconut, candida killer that works, fermented rolled oats, colloidal silver & more.  
[www.realrawfood.com](http://www.realrawfood.com)  
Call 250-496-5215 • Naramata, BC

# From revolving door to revolution in the patch

an interview with Kevin Taft

by Jeremy Appel

**W**hy are ostensibly environmentally friendly governments, like the federal Liberals and Alberta NDP, still so attached to oil sands extraction, with its disproportionate impact on carbon emissions? Former Alberta Liberal leader Kevin Taft has an answer in his recent book, *Oil's Deep State* (Lorimer, September 2017), and it's one that many Canadians and Albertans will find unsettling.

Taft argues that the oil and gas industry has developed a stranglehold over federal and provincial governments, as well as large swaths of academia and the media, corroding Canadians' ability to meaningfully address the threat of climate change. I spoke with Taft about his analysis, how we got to this point and what the future holds for oil's deep state.



## Ralph Klein's election in 1992 led to a compete abdication of control of our oil resources, turning it over to the private sector.

**Jeremy Appel:** When we hear about the deep state it's usually a reference to the power elite running the show in Washington, DC, despite Trump's alleged goal to "drain the swamp" of corporate influence. What do you mean by the term in your book?

**Kevin Taft:** When I finished the manuscript, the term "deep state" hadn't hit the popular agenda very much yet. In fact, it was a concern of mine and the publisher's that the term wouldn't really resonate with people.

It's a term that goes back to the 1970s and has been used commonly in Europe, Turkey, the United States and Canada. What's happened in the US since the Trump election is that the far-right has grabbed and torqued the term "deep state" for their own purposes and that's what happens with political language, unfortunately.

I tried to bring some theory to the idea of a deep state by connecting it to the notion of capture. There's a long history of literature studying how democratic institutions get captured by private interests. The question I had is what happens when a whole series of democratic institutions are captured and held by the same private interests?

What happens when the governing party, the opposition party, the regulators, the civil service, universities, for example, are all captured and held by the same private interest? I argue at that point you have a state within a state, which I call a deep state.

**JA:** How did the non-renewable energy industry get so powerful in Canada in general, and in Alberta in particular?

**KT:** It was a very slow process in Alberta. The oil industry here has been active for 100 years and gradually built strength. A key variable for Alberta is that we have a comparatively small population, so all of Alberta together has less people than metropolitan Phoenix or Seattle and we own the third largest oil reserves on the planet. This little population of Albertans owns more oil than all of Russia or all of the United States.

It's an overwhelmingly large resource for such a small population. As that resource is being developed, especially the oil sands, the economic weight of that has bent our democratic society into a warped shape. It gives immense power to the private interests who have managed to gain control of that resource.

It's very difficult for a government to manage a resource as large as the oil sands without losing control of the resource. I think that the only country who's done that really effectively is Norway. We had a chance. In his first term or two, Peter Lougheed actually stood up and waged a struggle with the oil industry. He wrestled a lot of control away from the industry and into the hands of the people who actually own the resource, which is the government and people of Alberta.

Those successes of the early Lougheed years began to decline in the later 1980s and Ralph Klein's election in 1992 led to a compete abdication of control of our oil resources, turning it over to the private sector. We're going to pay a price for that.

**JA:** What happened in the intervening years, from Lougheed's battle with the industry to Klein's subservience to it?

**KT:** There was a broad shift in the social-democratic discourse through the 1980s. You had the rise, generally in the English-speaking world, of the right. You had Margaret Thatcher in the UK and Ronald Reagan in the US, as well as the Chicago school of economics, who became champions of markets and the private sector.

That was combined with a slowing in Alberta's economy in the later 1980s and then a very deliberate and successful attempt, starting in the very late '80s and through the 1990s, by people in the industry, to take command of the Alberta government. You had, for example, a whole series of energy and finance and other cabinet ministers coming from the oil industry, spending a couple of terms in cabinet and then going back



to the industry. It's no surprise that those people took the royalty and regulatory systems and turned them to the benefit of the industry.

**JA:** How did your personal experience in Alberta politics inform your analysis?

**KT:** My experience had a profound shaping of my view. When I left politics [in 2012], I really left it completely. It was a couple of years after I left that I was invited by a university in Australia to give some serious thought to the relationship between fossil

fuels and democracy.

As I began reading, thinking and studying the theory, I realized that everywhere I looked, when I was in office, the oil industry was right there. Whether they were lobbying me or when I walked over to the legislature, they'd be lobbying the government, financing the political parties, funding the universities. Everywhere I turned, there would be the oil industry. When you're in the middle of it, that just seems normal. But after a couple of years away and doing more serious thinking, I realized it was the oil industry that was running Alberta, not the people of Alberta.



## Frankly, a form of energy revolution is coming that will put the end to the oil industry, but that's not going to be clean and tidy. It's going to be a long and messy process.

We have to remember the interests of the oil industry are not the same as the interests of the people of Alberta. That's something Peter Lougheed said over and over again. The people of Alberta have to think like owners and we stopped doing that in the early 1990s. We've given up one of the most valuable resources on the planet.

**JA:** More recently, Ed Stelmach attempted to raise royalty rates and the industry responded by shifting its financial support from his PC party to the upstart Wildrose. What does this tell us about the machinations of oil's deep state?

**KT:** Behind the scenes, there's a very well-orchestrated campaign by the oil industry- *continued p.19 ...*





# Taking care of your heart

**T**he news regarding heart health used to be all about cholesterol. This made sense since the plaque that sticks to the inner lining of arteries leading to the heart is primarily cholesterol. These fatty deposits accumulate, causing blood vessels to narrow; eventually, these oxygen-delivering arteries can become entirely blocked. Without oxygen, the heart cannot carry on. The same process in the brain results in strokes.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death. Large studies, such as the EPIC Oxford Study, in which 44,561 adults were followed for a dozen years, showed that vegetarians were 32% less likely to develop heart disease. The Adventist Health Study, involving over 73,000 participants across North America, showed that, compared with meat eaters, vegan men had 55% less ischemic heart disease. IHD includes stable angina, unstable angina, myocardial infarction and sudden cardiac death. Vegetarian men who included eggs and dairy had 24% less IHD than non-vegetarians. Differences were less marked among women choosing different dietary patterns, though those who included fish showed lower risk. A 2016 Systematic Review and Meta-analysis including 96 studies showed that vegetarians and vegans had a 25% risk reduction for developing IHD.

We can't alter some factors (age and family history) that influence our heart disease risk. But our lifestyle choices (smoking, exercise and stress) and lifestyle-related conditions (see below) can have a *huge* impact.

**Hypertension:** The Adventist Health Study found that, compared to similar, health-conscious non-vegetarians, risk of hypertension was 55% lower among lacto-ovo vegetarians (LOVs) who included some eggs and/or dairy products and 75% lower among vegans. The EPIC-Oxford study found similar benefits with increasingly plant-based diets.

**Type 2 diabetes:** People with diabetes have a two to four times greater risk of heart disease or stroke than those without this condition. The Adventist Health Study found diabetes risk to be 32% lower among LOVs and 62% lower among vegans.

Here's how dietary choices have proven to be effective:


**Inflammation:** Chronic inflammation can make arterial plaque vulnerable to rupture and thrombosis. LOVs appear to have significantly less inflammation, vegans even less.

**Less heme iron:** Decades ago, nutrition texts stated that the heme iron in blood (thus in meats) was "better absorbed" than the non-heme iron in plant foods. Perspectives have changed. We now know that non-heme iron has the advantage of being absorbed to a greater or lesser extent, depending upon whether or not we need it. In contrast, high intakes of dietary heme iron from meat and fish are associated with increased oxidative stress.

**Antioxidants:** Plant foods provide a wealth of protective antioxidants.

**Carotid IMT** (Intima Media Thickness) refers to the thickness and plaque lining arterial walls; it is strongly associated with heart disease risk. Plant based diets can reduce carotid IMT.

**High TMAO levels** accelerate atherosclerosis and greatly increase risk of death among heart failure patients. TMAO-producing bacteria are found in the intestines of meat eaters, but not in vegans.

For optimal heart health on a plant-based diet, be sure to include sources of omega-3 fatty acids and a vitamin B12 supplement (about 10-25 mcg/day). For tips on fine-tuning your diet, see the video on *ABCs of Vegan Nutrition* at [www.becomingvegan.ca](http://www.becomingvegan.ca) and [www.nutrispeak.com/videos/](http://www.nutrispeak.com/videos/) 

Vesanto Melina is a Vancouver dietitian author and consultant.

## TRAIN for a CAREER as a CERTIFIED NUTRITIONAL PRACTITIONER!



### Earn a Diploma in Applied Holistic Nutrition

**Achieve the accreditation of Certified Nutritional Practitioner (CNP)**

**Qualify for the professional designation of Registered Orthomolecular Health Practitioner (ROHP)**

**Full & Part-time Programs**

**Professional Co-op Placement**

**Continuing Education**

**Student Clinic**

Heather Allen, CNP, 2014 Graduate ▶

"The invaluable knowledge I gained at IHN gave me a true understanding of what it takes to create the beautiful portrait that is vibrant health."



**Next Semester Begins September 2018**



**The Institute of Holistic Nutrition**  
THE INDUSTRY LEADER IN TRAINING  
NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

**604.558.4000**  
**Vancouver Campus**

**604 West Broadway Suite 300**  
**Vancouver, BC V5Z 1G1**  
(One block West of Cambie & Broadway)

[www.instituteofholisticnutrition.com](http://www.instituteofholisticnutrition.com)



Mac McLaughlin

ZODIAC

# StarWise

February 2018

ASTROLOGY columns are often foreboding as they cannot help but create some form of apprehension regarding the future – “Oh, my, what’s going to happen to dear so and so when Saturn or Pluto gets activated in their chart?” It’s very challenging to create something positive when a person is experiencing heavy astrological weather. With this in mind, let’s take another approach to what the stars are trying to convey. Often, the planetary energy is portrayed as punitive, corrective or punishing. It is my belief that the stars are guides, invested in helping us perfect our evolution and spiritual growth.

Lately, we are aghast at the behaviour of all the mighty and powerful men who have plummeted from their high perches, accompanied by deep shame, humiliation and embarrassment. Are they bad men or just men coping with the human problems of lust and desire? All men are beset with the same problems, but those with copious power and wealth have more privileges and opportunities than the average bloke. My bet is that 99% of men would fail the test and stagger under the weight of serious temptation. We’re constantly bombarded and inundated with temptation, subtle and not so subtle. Where’s the astrology in all of this? Right, here we go.

Saturn visits Capricorn and Aquarius over the next five years. He has ownership of both these signs and his journey through them offers an opportunity to truly get in touch with his divine wisdom and guidance. He teaches us we need to get sexuality into its proper perspective. The true gurus teach us we have misplaced the sacred act of procreation and made it into recreation, which has caused untold misery and suffering for both men and women. This is no new thing and this phenomena has been with us since the beginning of time. The great Saint Param Sant Kirpal Singh ji Maharaj tells the story of Lord Rama and Ravana. Ravana was a very learned pandit, knowing all the four Vedas, all the six Shastras and so on. With all of that, what did he do? He abducted the wife of Lord Rama. So with all of that knowledge, he still fell down. It is obvious we need to turn our lives around. We could all learn to live more modestly, not repressively, but at least more conservatively. The planetary deities are willing to teach and guide us, but are we willing to learn and pay heed to the wisdom of the stars?

**Mac McLaughlin** has been a practising, professional astrologer for more than four decades. His popular **Straight Stars** column ran in Vancouver’s largest weekly newspaper for 11 years. Email [mac@macsstars.com](mailto:mac@macsstars.com) or call 604-731-1109.

## BECOME A CERTIFIED LIFE COACH or EXECUTIVE COACH

**Our 2 day intensive course will teach you everything you need to know to succeed. All Certified Coaches Federation™ graduates also receive admission (at no additional cost!) to our 1 year CCF Continuing Education Program!**

**Only Certified Coaches Federation™ graduates earn the esteemed Certified Life Coach Practitioner™ designations!**

**REGISTER TODAY:**

**April 28-29, 2018 – Vancouver, B.C.  
Century Plaza Hotel & Spa**

**866-455-2155 or 403-389-1190**

[www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com](http://www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com) | [abe@certifiedcoachesfederation.com](mailto:abe@certifiedcoachesfederation.com)



**ARIES** Mar 21 - Apr 19

You’re the leader of the pack and you may not even know it. Rest assured, many take their cues from you. Live in the truth, stay in the light and everything will come aright. Career opportunities will present themselves, along with opportunities for travel and spiritual growth. New people manifest in your life now.



**TAURUS** Apr 20 - May 21

The big planetary energies are looking your way, providing myriad opportunities for growth, expansion and stability. Take the hint and make some moves. Even if you are set back, get up again and persist and insist; it will pay dividends. By the way, I’m not just talking money and career. I’m talking lifestyle and internal integrity.



**GEMINI** May 22 - Jun 20

Your solar ninth house of spirituality, travel and education is lit up like a Christmas tree. Writing, publishing and any manner of higher learning is indicated. Mars is sparking your solar house of relationships, which could be wonderful and exciting, but there could also be some fighting. Diplomacy and patience are needed now.



**CANCER** Jun 21 - Jul 22

The time has come to go deep and long. Partnerships of all sorts get a work-over now. Sort out what is real and of real value. Some decisions may be painful and saying goodbye is never any fun, but in the long run, your peace of mind and inner happiness return.



**LEO** Jul 23 - Aug 22

Leo loves the big picture, especially if they are right in the middle of it. It’s those tiny and bothersome details that will trip the lion up time and again. Matters such as health, legalities and taxes must not be overlooked, lest you are tripping over them now. The time has come to set things right.



**VIRGO** Aug 23 - Sep 22

Never one to slack off, it might be time to cut yourself some slack. Late February and March is your solar low of the year allowing you time to recoup and repair. The positive planets, Jupiter and Venus, are lending a hand while fiery Mars creates intense scenarios that you can choose to dive into – or avoid.



**LIBRA** Sep 23 - Oct 22

Your solar fifth house is strongly activated for the first three weeks of February. The fifth house rules entertainment, enterprise, children and romance. Health topics are on the cosmic menu. It might be time to get yourself together. Elders, and their health and welfare, may need some attention. Real estate activity comes into play.



**SCORPIO** Oct 23 - Nov 21

Jupiter continues his journey through Scorpio. The positive side of Jupiter’s energy enhances timing and good will, monetary increases and a boost in popularity. The negative side of Jupiter hints at waste, overconfidence, sloth and sloppy thinking. It is time to mix and mingle and connect with people who are positive and productive.



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22 - Dec 21

Mars is making his presence known as he visits Sagittarius until mid-March. On the positive, he generates confidence, strength, energy and activity. On the negative, he can bring dissatisfaction, irritation and conflagration. Dry tinder just needs one spark to set off a wildfire. Accidents and incidents seem to manifest when Mars energy manifests.



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22 - Jan 19

Saturn, the great teacher, will be in Capricorn for the next couple of years providing a time in which you can truly inculcate many deep and powerful lessons. Fortunately, he’s your ruling planet. You’re wired right and can get in line with him quite easily. Starting university, a career or a family fits the bill nicely.



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20 - Feb 19

Every sign has its duds that don’t live up to the qualities indicated for their sign. Generally speaking, Aquarius has been gifted with a scintillating intellect, along with the ability to digest and disseminate knowledge. The next five years present a time in which you are on a great learning curve of inestimable value.



**PISCES** Feb 20 - Mar 20

A magical and mystical time has arrived and I wouldn’t be surprised by what comes up for you now. Love and marriage, baby and carriage and all kinds of other life changing events could manifest. You can go out and play or put your intention and dreams together. My hint is to do it all.



# Dave Barrett when true socialism shaped BC and made it more beautiful

**D**ave Barrett's recent death has inevitably brought to mind the first-ever NDP Premier's legacy of brilliant public policies, which helped make BC a better place for everyone, every day, including you and me.

However, today, at least two of his signature policies are threatened. Public auto insurance, ICBC, is wrecked and a write-off. And the Agricultural Land Reserve, designed to protect farmland, is being diminished with the largest-ever removal of farmland by flooding the Peace River Valley for Site C.

In three short years (1972-1975), the Barrett government passed 350+ bills, an average of one every three days.

Barrett and his caucus created the BC Day holiday, Pharmacare and citizens' right to sue government. They forced politicians to reveal donors, launched a daily question period and were the first to record and publish legislative debate in Hansard (the traditional name for transcripts of parliamentary debates in the British Commonwealth).

They dramatically expanded parkland and halted mining in them, banned pay toilets, put a stop to spanking in schools and jailing 12-year-olds, lowered the drinking age to 19 and enabled neighbourhood pubs. In Vancouver alone, we have the Seabus program, the preserved Orpheum Theatre and Robson Square.

And Barrett accomplished so much more: North America's strongest labour code, consumer protections, human rights legislation, increased pensions for the elderly, increased support for the disabled, assistance for tenants, higher welfare rates and implementing the highest minimum wage in Canada.

Ninety-seven legacies are listed in *The Art of the Impossible: Dave Barrett and the NDP in Power, 1972-1975*, by Rod Mickleburgh and Geoff Meggs, who is now NDP chief of staff in the current minority government. In many ways, Barrett was 40 years ahead of his time and, hopefully, we're now catching up. "None of the things we did, not one, was radical. Not one. And in the light of history that's even more evident," Barrett explained.

Dave Barrett was the youngest child of Isadore, a communist, and Sam, a twice-wounded Great War veteran



who was gassed at Passchendaele and limped behind a horse-drawn fruit wagon before opening a fruit market on Powell Street in Vancouver. He was also the first Jewish born – albeit educated at Jesuit universities in Seattle and St. Louis – and the first socialist to hold BC's top elected position. A champion of the little guy, he was an MLA for a quarter-century, an MP for five years and later headed two inquiries into the leaky condo fiasco.

Referred to as "little fat guy" by the press gallery, he self-deprecatingly nicknamed himself "Fat Li'l Dave," laughingly saying, "They've called me a Marxist. I say, 'Which one? Groucho, Chico or Harpo?'"

He took off his shoes to jump on the table at a first cabinet meeting, shouting, "Are you here for a good time or a long time?" Revolutionary, compared to the cautious, current NDP, which stresses "affordability" and "administration over activism." In contrast, Barrett bristled at an economic system even he never imagined would cause today's obscene inequity. Redistributing wealth more equally, rather than constantly growing economy on our finite planet, was his life's work, which he acted on rather than endlessly study.

Worth recalling is his first trip to Ottawa when Barrett told then-prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, "I didn't come

here to B.S." A far cry from today's contrived, polite federal-provincial relationship. Also worth remembering: in 1983 when he was forcibly dragged out of the legislature at 4:30 am for refusing to withdraw a challenge to a Social Credit restraint and austerity program. A first in the 112-year history of the chamber, characterized even now by whipped back-benchers and spineless cabinet members on short leashes.

"In my political career I've always been blunt, very blunt. As a consequence, either people love me or they hate me. There's not much middle ground. That's really how I operate," Barrett recalled.


I remember late August in 1972: Watergate, the Arab oil embargo, rampant inflation and reactionary right-wing politics. When TV took over, it was the toy department of journalism. Dave Barrett's landslide victory was on the tube, everywhere, including a pub where I witnessed folks buying rounds, passing joints and hugging complete strangers, well past closing time.

A few months later, on the evening of the long-awaited day when live music was finally allowed in bars, my band was hired to play music. A few measures into the first song, the bar emptied as people

lined up at pay-phones to call friends and family. It was a joyous time, much like the NDP functions I later played at and the live, paid gigs on BC Ferries.



Dave Barrett, deeply rooted in NDP principles, was music to our ears. His honesty, bold vision, unapologetic action and passion gave us the hope and justice we now urgently need to hear and see from BC's legislature as we run out of time in 2018.

Imagine that. I mention culture because it too matters. And Dave Barrett, deeply rooted in NDP principles, was music to our ears. His honesty, bold vision, unapologetic action and passion gave us the hope and justice we now urgently need to hear and see from BC's legislature as we run out of time in 2018. 



**PERSONAL RETREATS & GROUP RENTALS**  
Available throughout the year

**32-acre ocean-front property**  
Beautiful, serene setting

**For more information contact Ralph Tiller, Program Manager**  
[programs@swanwickcentre.ca](mailto:programs@swanwickcentre.ca)

# BC Hydro – until debt do us part

by Reimar Kroecker and Eoin Finn

it out to a large number of Mr. B's friends. Mr. B does not want any return, so the rents are kept low enough to cover costs and there is no profit for Mr. B. He is happy and his friends like him.

The house is worth \$100,000. The mortgage (debt on the house) is \$80,000 so Mr. B's equity is \$20,000 (\$100,000 minus \$80,000). The ratio of debt divided by equity is four to one. The yearly income from the house is \$30,000, exactly equal to the yearly expenses.

Now Mr. B has a change of heart and wants a dividend of \$4,000 while at the same time the expenses on the house go up to \$34,000. "Well," says Mr. H, "we will increase the rent to collect \$38,000 per year and Mr. B will get his \$4,000 dividend and I will get \$4,000 to cover the extra expenses." "No," says Mr. B, "my friends would be unhappy and would not like me anymore." "Well," says Mr. H, "we will borrow the money by increasing the mortgage by \$8,000." "No," says Mr. B, "the bank would think I am a bad credit risk. My debt

to equity ratio is four to one now and it would go higher than four to one;" 88,000 divided by 20,000, which is 4.4.

However, Mr. H has a plan: "We will ditch the internationally accepted accounting standards (IFRS), which don't allow "Deferred Expenses" and instead use the more permissive American Accounting standards (FASB) which do allow such deferrals." So here is what they do: they take \$10,000 of the expenses and treat them as an investment in the house. They might take the gardening expense and maybe some pressure washing and gutter cleaning and claim that these are really not an expense this year, but improve the value of the house by that much. They also borrow \$8,000 from the bank, by increasing the mortgage.

Now the house is worth \$110,000, the debt (mortgage) is \$88,000, the equity is \$22,000 and the debt to equity ratio is four to one; \$88,000 divided by \$22,000. Clearly, Mr. B's friends are happy because the rent has not increased. Mr. B is happy because he gets his \$4,000 dividend while his debt to equity ratio has not increased. He maintains his AAA credit rating. Mr. H is happy because he can cover the extra expense of \$4,000.

Both Mr. B's dividend of \$4,000 and the extra expenses of \$4,000 were paid for by increases in the debt, yet the debt to equity ratio did not increase.

In this example Mr. B is the BC government, Mr. H is BC Hydro and Mr. B's friends are the ratepayers. The house is equivalent to the various assets of BC Hydro. So we see that the dividends the province collected were paid by increases in BC Hydro's debt. The same applied to its rising expenses. In fact, during the last 10 years, BC Hydro debt went up by some \$10 billion,

even though no new generating facilities were built. At the same time, using "Deferred Expenses," the ratio of debt to equity did not go up so the government could continue to claim its annual dividend.

FASB, the American accounting standard, has two conditions: a) Deferred Expenses must be approved by an independent regulator, and b) they may not be deferred longer than 10 years. On government orders, BC Hydro blissfully ignored both of these. Deferred Expenses is an accounting trick that can mask the financial difficulty a company faces. However, it is not the only accounting trick concocted by the previous Liberal government. When BC Hydro requested rate increases of 9% and was only allowed 3%, it was instructed to show in its books what it requested, not what it actually received. So the books show 6% fictitious revenue that was never received!



**As a result of rapidly rising debt  
with no corresponding increases  
in real assets, equity will go  
negative. As that point, BC Hydro  
will be near-worthless and big,  
private-sector corporations will  
pounce and buy it for a pittance.**

It should be obvious that, when a company pays both for dividends and rising expenses by increasing its debt, and on top of that creates fictitious revenue it never received, year after year, that company is on a fast track to financial ruin. In BC Hydro's case, that ruin could be prevented by the following policies:

- No more dividends to the province for quite a few years.
- Realistic electricity rate increases that cover expense increases.
- An end to "cooking" the books and a switch back to internationally-accepted accounting standards. The books of BC Hydro right now are worthy of consideration for the Governor General's award for fiction.
- Replacing the current BC Hydro Board of political appointees with a new board of experts, whose mission should be to nurture BC Hydro back to financial health and to manage it in the best interests of ratepayers, not government. This new board must stop political meddling.
- Cancel Site C.

If it continues on this course, financial insolvency is a near-certainty for BC Hydro, *continued p.21 ...*

**F**or most of its existence, BC Hydro, a publicly owned utility company, operated on a non-profit basis. Enough revenue was collected to cover costs and its customers benefitted from low rates. If there were any profits, they were reinvested into BC Hydro.

Sometime shortly before Gordon Campbell's Liberals swept into power in 2001, the NDP government had a change of mind and decided to demand a \$300-million dividend from BC Hydro. Although criticizing the NDP for this while in opposition, the Liberals collected \$5.8 billion in dividends during their stay in power. The Campbell government also dictated that all new power was to be purchased from private producers (IPPs) at rates far above the rates at which BC Hydro could produce it! That squeezed BC Hydro's finances from two sides: high dividend payments to government and expensive power to be purchased from IPPs.

The obvious way out was to increase electricity rates substantially, but the BC Utility Commission, on orders from the provincial government, approved only modest increases. The members of the commission are government appointees, puppets in the eyes of many researchers. A second way out was to go into debt by selling more BC Hydro bonds. That was also disallowed because as BC Hydro's debt increases, the triple A rating for all provincial debt could be lost and interest rates might rise as much as one and one-half percent. To get out of this dilemma, BC Hydro decided to introduce "Deferred Expenses" – treating expenses as if they are assets – in its accounts. The easiest way to understand this accounting concept is to look at the example of a house:

Mr. B owns a house and sublets it to Mr. H who rents



We offer frequency bonuses  
three sizes of listings  
and a wide range of categories

To book your listing email  
editor@commonground.ca



- Art & Music • Business Services • Dentistry
- Education & Certification • Health & Healing • Intuitive Arts
- Nutrition • Psychology, Therapy & Counselling • Restaurants

## ART & MUSIC



**YES YOU CAN SING!**  
**Lynn McGown**  
singing teacher /  
vocal coaching

**Do you love to sing in the shower** only to clam up if you think other people are listening? Discover your own voice and full potential of your talent with Lynn McGown. We all have our own unique voice. Through breathing and body awareness techniques, vocal warm-ups and lots of singing, you are guided

to discover a powerful and authentic sound to build your confidence, energy level, well-being and health. All lessons are individually tailored: from shy beginners to professional performance coaching. Register for vocal workshops (last Sunday of each month) and/or one-on-one vocal singing coaching.

**LYNN MCGOWN**  
Call to set up lesson  
tel. 604-222-4113  
www.lynnmcgown.com  
www.celtictraditions.ca

## BUSINESS SERVICES



**AXLE ALLEY**  
AUTO REPAIR / SURF SHOP  
www.axlealley.ca

**Locally owned and operated since 1992**  
Government Licensed mechanics  
Centrally located near the VCC Skytrain Stn  
20% of our oil changes go to charity  
Free brake inspection  
Free clutch adjustment  
Free baby seat anchor and install

• Keeping your old car a few more years could  
save you thousands of dollars

Hours: Monday - Saturday  
8 AM - 5 PM  
2055 Clark Drive  
Vancouver, BC

• Check out our website for 43 free  
downloadable fuel saving tips.

Book an appointment online.  
www.axlealley.ca  
604-875-9988 604-255-TIRE  
axlealley@hotmail.com



**mimi lauzon**  
Conscious Dating Coach  
& Matchmaker  
cell 778.871.3175

**Looking for lasting love?** Finding your special someone can be frustrating and time-consuming, but with the right understanding, outlook and support, the process can be fun, enlightening and quick! A full-spectrum approach. Backed by years of experience as a Professional Coach and Matchmaker. Call today for a free 30-minute consultation.



**HUCKLEBERRY**  
BABY SHOP

**Gentle Choices for Eco-friendly Families:**  
Cloth diapers, Baby Carriers, Baby Gifts, Cloth Diaper Trial Program, Gift Certificates, Workshops & much more. **Shop Online.**  
**NEW LOCATION:** Country Club Centre, 9-3200 North Island Highway, Nanaimo  
**Cristi Lundman: 250-585-5552**  
www.huckleberrybabyshop.com

## DENTISTRY

*We are divided, it seems to me, between the  
passionately ignorant and the passively informed.  
And therefore paralyzed.*  
– Bill Moyers



**BIO-HOLISTIC  
DENTAL  
EXCELLENCE**  
**Dr. Serge Agafontsev, D.M.D.**  
Full services including  
cosmetic dentistry and  
dental implants

**Our goal for you** is a healthy, beautiful, long lasting and self-maintainable dental condition. Call us today to book a free consultation. For a limited time we are offering a special rate to new patients. Call for details.  
**66 Keefer Place, Vancouver**  
**604-708-6042 | info@doctorserge.com**  
www.doctorserge.com

## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION



**Learn massage therapy while enjoying the sun and sea of Hawaii.** Our "State of the Heart" professional program provides you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to open your own bodywork practice. Our 650-hour certification program is one of the most affordable anywhere at only \$5,500US. Part-time (12 month) and Full-time (7 month)

programs begin every September and March. Curriculum includes Anatomy & Kinesiology, Swedish, Lomilomi, Hydro & Spa Treatments, Deep Tissue & NMT, Assessment & Treatments, Shiatsu, Sports & Therapeutic Exercise, Reflexology, Body/Mind Integration and a fully supervised public clinic. The school is located on the island of Maui, where the warm

ocean, gentle climate and lush tropical beauty encourage deep relaxation and exploration of the healing process. Student visas available for 7 and 12 month programs. For more information and a free catalog, write **Maui School of Therapeutic Massage**, PO Box 1891, Makawao, Hawaii 96768. Phone: 808-572-1888 or visit our website at www.massagemaui.com

## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION



### PACIFIC Institute of REFLEXOLOGY

Most courses tax deductible

#### Reflexology Training Courses

Reflexology is taught as an intuitive healing art for professional practice, or, for use with friends and family. Courses provide structure that allows you to develop your own intuitive sense in your reflexology practice. We have a holistic orientation.

**Holistic Reflexology: An Introduction -**

Informational evening talks: **\$10.** See *Datebook*.

**Basic Foot, Hand or Ear Reflexology Certificate Weekend Courses** - Twenty hours expert instruction, plus 40 hours practicum and 10 hours home study prepare you to practice reflexology competently. **\$375.**

**Advanced Reflexology Certificate Courses** - Expand your knowledge and develop your

effectiveness to a professional level. **\$375.**

Courses offered year round. See *Datebook*.

**Courses accredited RABC, and RAC.**

**Pacific Institute of Reflexology**

535 West 10th Ave. @ Cambie, Vancouver

**604-875-8818 / Toll free: 1-800-688-9748**

**www.pacificreflexology.com**

**Email: chriss Shirley@pacificreflexology.com**



**Connexions**  
FREEDOM - JUSTICE - DEMOCRACY - COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES - VISIONS - HISTORIES - ALTERNATIVES

**Information**  
to change the world

**Free online library** with 20,000+ articles, books and films about justice, freedom, and democracy. Focus on creating alternatives and working together for a better world. Plus social justice calendar, directory of groups and websites.

**www.connexions.org**

### Spiritual Life Mentor



Have questions about God, technology or life?

**Book an appointment online at inspiretrend.com/spiritual**

**Mentoring from many years of Yoga and Bodhi self realization**, and support for greater understanding of God and life.

Join a new Community Social Media website.

**Sign up at www.inspiretrend.com**

Check the "Events" section for webinars on Health and Well-being.

## HEALTH & HEALING



### PACIFIC Institute of REFLEXOLOGY

#### Reflexology: The Core of Natural Healing

Reflexology is practiced as a potent, safe way to free you from stress and tension, and relieve your pain and discomfort. Stimulation of your foot, hand or ear reflexes will deeply relax you to revitalize your whole body, and thereby facilitate natural healing. Let us tailor-make your session to address your unique

health concerns and preferences.

Our holistic approach can assist you to address the source of your disease or discomfort, and/or, simply indulge in blissful relaxation. Our sessions enable you to embrace your natural health and vitality. Reflexology safely complements all other therapies.

**One-hour private sessions: \$65, or 5/\$275.**

**Student Clinic:** Tuesday evenings. Rejuvenate yourself, you deserve it!!! **1hr sessions only \$25.**

**Books, charts and self-help tools available.** Enquire about franchise opportunities.

**Pacific Institute of Reflexology**

535 West 10th Ave. @ Cambie, Vancouver

**604-875-8818 www.pacificreflexology.com**

**Email: chriss Shirley@pacificreflexology.com**



#### Wellspring Vision Improvement Program

Making a positive difference

**Dr. Weidong Yu**

**www.TCMRP.com**

#### Wellspring Vision Improvement Program

(WVIP) was developed in 1999 by Dr. Weidong Yu, a world renowned Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. WVIP is a comprehensive Holistic health program based on Chinese herbal medicine, Acupuncture, Acupressure, Qigong, Food and Nutrition. WVIP may be

beneficial for patients with conditions such as:

- \* Retinitis Pigmentosa
- \* Macular degeneration
- \* Glaucoma
- \* Eye Bleeding
- \* Red eyes, Dry eyes
- \* Eye fatigue
- \* Far sightedness
- \* Blurry Vision

**For appointment, please call 604-737-7876**

Dr. Weidong Yu, Dr.TCM

Wellspring Clinic

916 West King Edward Ave. (south east corner of King Edward Mall at Oak & King Edward) Vancouver, BC



### THE HAPPY COLON

since 2000

**Elena Lopez**

I-ACT certified  
colon hydrotherapist

**Colon Hydrotherapy** dates back to the Egyptians who used it in its most basic form, the enema. Modern equipment today uses purified water at preset pressure and temperature to cleanse the large intestine (colon).

By appointment only: **604-525-8400**

**# 360 - 522 7th St., New Westminster, B.C.**



### Powerful Memory Healing

Overcome pain,  
migraines & health  
conditions

Hypnotherapist with  
over 10 years experience

**TEYA FRANCE, Certified Hypnotherapist**

Increase your confidence, have greater success & more loving relationships.

Visit past lives. Intuitive support for pregnant women. Change your life and find freedom.

**Call for more info & ideas: 604-765-7571**

West Broadway at Cypress

## INTUITIVE ARTS

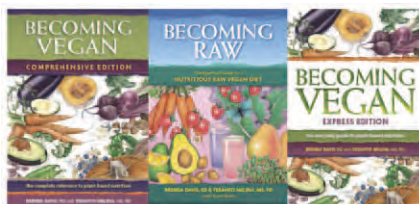
#### DR. ANNE MCMURTRY Channelled Readings, Reiki & Crystal Healing

ANNE'S ABILITY opens a line of communication between you and your spiritual guides allowing them to speak directly to you. Reiki and crystal healings and workshops are also available. **604-734-8219 VANCOUVER**

*It seems to me a fundamental dishonesty, and a fundamental treachery to intellectual integrity to hold a belief because you think it's useful and not because you think it's true.*

– Bertrand Russell

## NUTRITION



**Lead author Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** current vegetarian position paper; and of award books on plant-based nutrition *Becoming Vegan: Comprehensive Edition* and *Becoming Vegan: Express Edition* both with Brenda Davis. Online & bookstores. **www.becomingvegan.ca**



**Consultation with dietitian/author Vesanto Melina.** (\$295 for 2-1/2 hours) includes personalized nutritional analysis; recipes; menu planning. For busy people; pregnancy; children, seniors.

**vesanto.melina@gmail.com**

**778-379-5377 www.nutrispeak.com**





**Therapy of the Whole Person**  
**John Arnold Ph.D.**  
 Therapist /  
 Counselor since 1975  
 604.261.2788

**Only by Working With the Whole Person Can You Achieve Truly Permanent and Effective Change.**

If problems and issues keep popping up in your life and you are STILL STUCK, it is

because you have not gotten to the root causes. Completion of any problem comes only when you have resolved your issues physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually and the underlying reasons for repetitive patterns of behavior are uncovered and resolved.

If you are fed up and want to do something radical about your predicament, give me a call 604-261-2788 or visit my web page at [www.johnarnoldphd-reichianandyogic-therapist.com/](http://www.johnarnoldphd-reichianandyogic-therapist.com/)



## ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE?

**Lorraine Milardo Bennington**  
 M.Ed. (Counselling)  
 Reg. Psychologist #815

You can overcome your limiting beliefs and open up to your joy!  
**Success Coaching**  
**Hypnotherapy** - Weight Loss/Stop Smoking, Athletic performance, Blocks to Success/Fear of failure, Age regression, Anxiety, Phobias  
**Couples Counselling**

**Lorraine Milardo Bennington**, success coach, psychologist and hypnotherapist, has been practising hypnosis for over 30 years and skillfully integrates intuition and hypnotherapy into her coaching and counselling practice. Lorraine gently guides people in the process of transformation, assisting

them to connect with their higher selves and to reclaim joy and personal power in their lives. Lorraine has returned to Vancouver after 10 years living, studying and working on Kauai and Maui.  
 778-331-8860 [transformance@mac.com](mailto:transformance@mac.com)  
[www.creativetransformations.ca](http://www.creativetransformations.ca)



**Louise Evans**  
 B.A., M.ED., C.H.T., R.C.C.  
**Hypnotherapy & Counselling**

Two sessions for the price of one: past life regression and/or life between lives. Clinical hypnosis – treatment that's affordable, fast and effective. Extended health coverage. For issues addressed, see [Sparkhypnotherapy.com](http://Sparkhypnotherapy.com)  
 Phone 604.773.5595 or 604.522.0257

## Life Between Lives™ Past Lives & Spiritual Regressions



**Rifa Hodgson, CCHT**  
 The first certified & practicing LBL therapist in Canada  
 1-888-606-TIME (8463)

"For those of us who have had the opportunity to actually see our immortality, a new depth of self understanding and empowerment emerges." - from "Journey of Souls" by Dr. Michael Newton, LBL Founder.  
**Offices: West Vancouver and Gibsons**  
[rifa@lifebetweenlives.ca](mailto:rifa@lifebetweenlives.ca)  
[www.lifebetweenlives.ca](http://www.lifebetweenlives.ca)

## RESTAURANTS VEGETARIAN

*It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.*  
 – Charles Spurgeon



**"Great Food, Anytime!"**  
**Open 24 Hours**

**The Naam Vegetarian Restaurant**  
 For years voted "Best Vegetarian" in the *Georgia Straight* and in *Vancouver Magazine's* "Readers' Choice". Open seven days a week, 24 hours, licensed, wood fireplace, heated patio, live music at dinner.  
 2724 West 4th Ave. 604-738-7151.

## RESTAURANTS

## EAST IS EAST

EXPERIENCE THE EAST WITH YOUR TASTE BUDS  
 604-734-5881  
 Now at our new location to 3035 West Broadway (Formerly Calhoun's)

"East Is East is a place where you are encouraged to talk to your neighbours. This is definitely not the Ritz, but it certainly is Kits. From plumbers to publishers, hippies to generation whatever, this place has special appeal." - Owen Williams, *Common Ground*  
**Visit our other location**  
 4433 Main Street @ 28th 604-879-2020



Savour an Indian culinary experience while enveloped in the mysterious ragas of classical Indian music. Winner of *West Ender's* Silver Medal for **Best Indian Restaurant 2004-2005**. Delicious selection of vegetarian and vegan specialties. Open 7 days a week for lunch & dinner. 2313 Main St., Vancouver 604.872.8779 [www.nirvanarestaurant.ca](http://www.nirvanarestaurant.ca)

...Kevin Taft from pg. 12

try to control the public agenda. The backstory to the rise of the Wildrose party is part of that.

I spend the first two chapters of the book talking about oil lobbyist and former Stephen Harper adviser Bruce Carson's court case in Ottawa. All the documents, emails, bank statements and minutes tabled lay bare some of the behind-the-scenes efforts and millions of dollars spent by the oil industry to get a grip on the civil service, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the political system, through cabinet ministers and prime ministers, top civil servants, the universities and provincial governments.

Of course, the public would never have a clue that that happened if a court case hadn't allowed the police to actually seize these documents and computers and

present the evidence in court. When I read through all those filings, it's just stunning to see how systematically the oil industry works to orchestrate the public agenda, whether it's pipelines, approval of oilsands expansion, undermining environmental initiatives.

This is not random chance. You can trace this back to a core, which is the command centre of the oil deep state in Canada: the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

**JA:** What's the way out of this situation?

**KT:** Change in Alberta is going to be forced from outside. That change is going to come in a few forms. One is that a very rapid shift in energy technology is going to unfold in the next decade. It takes away a good part of the market for Alberta oil, which will unfortunately bring Alberta's economy to its knees, creating a

political crisis in this province.

Another way out is the kind of citizen actions that we're seeing across the country and around the world: the actions of First Nations, court actions challenging the pipelines and escalating civil disobedience.

Frankly, a form of energy revolution is coming that will put the end to the oil industry, but that's not going to be clean and tidy. It's going to be a long and messy process. ❧

Originally published in **The Monitor**, [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca) (Jan 2, 2018). Reprinted with permission. **Jeremy Appel** is a multimedia journalist and currently a reporter/editor with the **Medicine Hat News**. **Kevin Taft** is a best-selling author, consultant, speaker and former provincial politician in Alberta, Canada. His latest book is **Oil's Deep State**.

# Science betrayed: the crime of denial

by Elizabeth Woodworth and Dr. Peter Carter

Climate change denial has been led by industry disinformation, which, according to Merriam-Webster, is “false information deliberately and often covertly spread in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.”

A crime against humanity is, according to the Oxford Dictionary, “a deliberate act, typically as part of a systematic campaign that causes human suffering or death on a large scale.”

## A brief look at the origins of denialism

In 2010, a landmark book, *Merchants of Doubt*, showed how a small group of prominent scientists with connections to politics and industry led disinformation campaigns denying established scientific knowledge about smoking, acid rain, DDT, the ozone layer and global warming.

Written by Dr. Naomi Oreskes, Harvard science historian, and NASA historian Erik Conway, *Merchants* was reviewed by Bill Buchanan of *The Christian Science Monitor* as “the most important book of 2010” and by *The Guardian’s* Robin McKie as “the best science book of the year.” It was followed by the 2014 documentary of the same name, also widely seen and reviewed.

The research showed how the disinformation tactics of the tobacco companies in the 1960s to undermine the scientific link between smoking and lung cancer served as a model for subsequent oil company tactics suppressing climate change science.

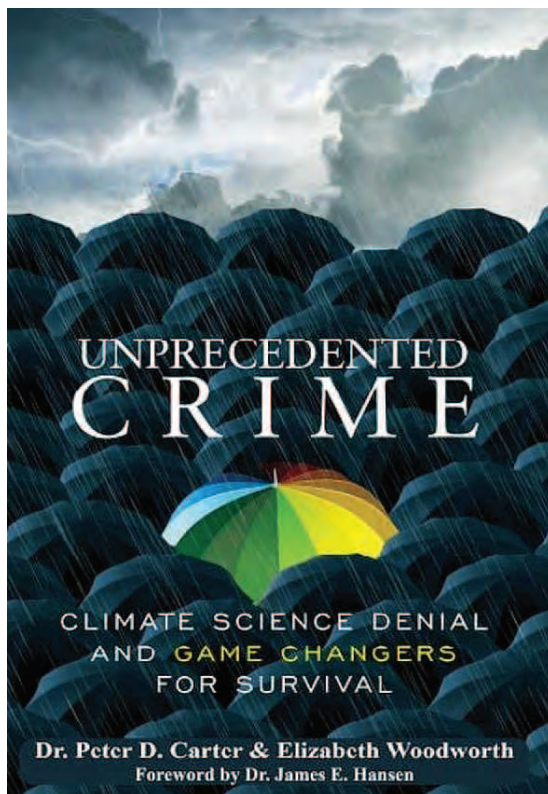
Following the U.S. Surgeon General’s landmark report on smoking and lung cancer in 1964, the government legislated warning labels on cigarette packages. But a tobacco company executive from Brown & Williamson had a brainwave: people still wanted to smoke and doubt about the science would give them a ready excuse.

His infamous 1969 memo read: “Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the ‘body of fact’ that exists in the minds of the general public. It is also the means of establishing a controversy.”

Tobacco industry executives never directly denied the mounting evidence that cigarettes were linked to lung cancer. Instead, they stated publicly that the science was controversial. In this way they managed to delay regulation and lawsuits until the 1990s.

When the global warming science began to emerge in the 1980s, the oil industry employed the same deceptions. The whole focus was now on creating doubt in the minds of the politicians, the media and the public about whether we really know for sure that climate change is a problem. Doubt, as the tobacco industry had learned so profitably, delays action.

When the IPCC was formed in 1988 and began documenting and publicizing the impacts of climate change, the climate disinformation campaign grew more intense. Big Oil employed the same tactics, arguments, vocabulary and PR firms that the tobacco companies had used to cast doubt on the dangers of smoking 25 years earlier.



When the IPCC began publicizing the impacts of climate change, the disinformation campaign grew more intense. Big Oil employed the same tactics and PR firms that the tobacco companies had used 25 years earlier.

The American Petroleum Institute convened a Global Climate Science Communications Team in 1998 to devise a plan targeting the media, schools, government officials, Congress and other influential groups.

The team’s mission, exposed in a leaked 1998 memo, was to initiate “a national media relations programme to inform the media about uncertainties in climate science; to generate national, regional and local media on the scientific uncertainties and thereby educate and inform the public, stimulating them to raise questions with policymakers.” They said victory would be achieved when:

- Average citizens understand (recognize) uncertainties in climate science; recognition of uncertainties becomes part of the “conventional wisdom.”
- Media “understands” (recognizes) uncertainties in climate science.
- Media coverage reflects balance on climate science

and recognition of the validity of viewpoints that challenge the current “conventional wisdom.”

- Industry senior leadership understands uncertainties in climate science, making them stronger ambassadors to those who shape climate policy.
- Those promoting the Kyoto treaty on the basis of extent science appears [sic] to be out of touch with reality.

A 2009-2014 study shows that climate change deniers promoting these uncertainties were prominently featured on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, Fox Business, ABC, CBS, and PBS in a striking number of TV appearances – indeed three years after the publication of *Merchants of Doubt*. These deniers included the non-climate scientists:

- Marc Morano (Bachelor PoliSci) from Climate Depot, 30 TV appearances.
- Tim Phillips (Bachelor PoliSci) from Americans for Prosperity, 7 appearances.
- Fred Singer (physicist) from the Science and Environmental Policy Project, 8 appearances.
- James Taylor (lawyer), from the Heartland Institute, 8 appearances.

Although these men lack credentials in climate science and have been widely exposed as imposters, the major cable TV and networks still give them credibility on their free media platforms.

The corporate media has thus given a relatively small group of science deniers with financial connections to the fossil fuel industry immense influence in sowing doubt on the scientific consensus of human-made climate change.

## Climate denial propaganda & influence continue to rise

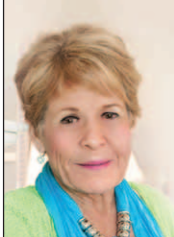
In 2016, the Union of Concerned Scientists reported that “an in-depth analysis of eight leading fossil fuel companies finds that none of them has made a clean break from disinformation on climate science and policy.” The companies included were ArchCoal, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Consol Energy, ExxonMobil, Peabody and Shell. The industry has responded to the spotlight by intensifying propaganda through the agents below.

**The Heartland Institute:** In March 2017, the Heartland Institute began targeting the nation’s 200,000 science teachers by mailing each a copy of its new book and DVD, *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming*. The slick package stated that, even if climate change were real, “it would probably not be harmful, because many areas of the world would benefit from or adjust to climate change.”

**The Koch Brothers:** The multibillionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch are two of the most powerful people in the global oil industry, owning Koch Industries, a \$100-billion conglomerate employing 100,000 people in 60 countries. They control 1-2 million acres of Alberta’s tar sands. The Kochs, bigger than either of the Democratic or Republican parties, manipulate both. A major focus of Koch money has been to ensure that no legislation is passed to curb the burning of fossil fuels. The brothers have gained

*continued p.21 ...*





# Human rights for all?

*Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.*

– Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**M**ost reasonable people would agree all humans should be treated with respect and dignity. We no longer tolerate it when any group is put down or belittled.

But many women, who would never make a racist comment, regularly participate in a practice that is degrading to others. We do not hear too much about this even though it is common, if not rampant, among women. I am talking about male bashing: “Men are pricks.” “All men are pigs.” “Men think with their dicks.” “Men only want one thing.” “Men are idiots” and on it goes.

Recently, I saw a Facebook post with the title, *How Women See Men*, followed by a video of men imitating apes.

I was inspired to write about this after one of my male clients asked me why women sit around and bash their husbands.

With all of the appropriate focus on the way women

have been treated, it seems obvious women need to look in the mirror as well. We can just imagine the outrage if a man made those kind of disparaging comments about women.

The horrifying thing is that women think it is okay to say these negative things about men because they believe they are true! Racists also believe their comments are true. Sure, there are unscrupulous men out there, but generalizing to all men is like saying all Muslims are terrorists or all Italians belong to the Mafia.

**Many women, who would never make a racist comment, regularly participate in a practice that is degrading to others...**

**I am talking about male bashing.**

So I want to address two things. The first is the kind of language used about men as shown above. As women, we must stand up to this, as we would want men to stand up when a guy says women are too emotional to be CEOs.

The second more subtle one is the habit many women have of complaining to their female friends about all the

faults they perceive in their partner. I have always felt that once a woman starts badmouthing her partner outside of the marriage, it is the beginning of the end.

If there are problems, talk to the man about them. If they cannot be resolved, seek counselling. If they are really bad and cannot be fixed, do not just stay in a bad situation and continue to vent toxic energy about it. Either take steps to get out or choose to live with it. When a woman bashes her partner, other women should try to guide that person towards problem solving rather than piling negativity on the man.

We do need to show more evolved behaviour than junior high girls gossiping and saying terrible things about another. Junior high girls may not have the skills or wisdom to do it differently. I want to believe adult women do.

Right now, it is clear men need to do things differently. But women, many of us need to step up too. Let's call it when we hear demeaning talk and attitudes, regardless of where it is coming from. ◀

**Gwen Randall-Young** is an author and psychotherapist in private practice. To read more articles or to order books, “Deep Powerful Change” hypnosis MP3s or MP3s for Creating Effective Relationships, visit [www.gwen.ca](http://www.gwen.ca) or check out her Facebook inspirational page.

...*Science* from pg. 20

pledges from 170 members of Congress that they will never support a tax on carbon. While attacking legitimate climate scientists, the Kochs were funding prominent pseudo-climate-scientists.

**ExxonMobil:** In 2015, we learned from its own research that Exxon has known since 1980 that global warming is real. Kert Davies, former research Director of Greenpeace USA, revealed through [ExxonSecrets.org](http://ExxonSecrets.org) that, meanwhile, ExxonMobil's climate change denial funding totaled at least \$33 million during the period 1997-2016. “At least \$33 million” because much of the funding has been channeled through dark identity scrubbing groups such as Donors Trust and Donors Capital.

**Secret funding by coal companies:** In April 2017, Peabody Energy, the country's largest investor-owned coal company, declared bankruptcy, following Arch Coal

and Alpha Natural Resources. In all three cases, court-ordered disclosures revealed creditors well known as climate science deniers. These included Chris Horner, who regularly disparages climate science on *Fox News* and has called for investigations of IPCC and NASA scientists.

As Dr. James Hansen had observed in 2012, this is “not an accident. There is a very concerted effort by people who would prefer to see business continue as usual.”

Whitehouse was one of the first in Congress to propose a civil case, similar to the racketeering suit Bill Clinton brought against the tobacco industry, against fossil-fuel companies for deliberately misleading the public on climate science.

Dr. Michael Mann sums it up: “The gulf between scientific opinion and public opinion has been bought with hundreds of millions of dollars of special interest money... The number *continued p.23* ...

...*BC Hydro* from pg. 16

whose financial health will not be improved by borrowing at least another \$9 Billion to complete Site C. Spread over the expected 70-year life of the dam, it will have to pay over \$20 billion in interest payments on that debt. It must also pay back the borrowed \$11 billion and pay the operational and maintenance costs totalling over \$9 billion more. All totalled, the revenue from 70 years of power sales must cover at least \$41 billion of these costs, excluding dividends to governments. To break even on that investment, it must sell all of Site C's 5 terawatt-hours of energy at around \$120 per megawatt-hour, 50% higher than today's average consumer rate. But all indications are that there will be no domestic demand at all for this massive amount of extra power and the only option will be to export it at bargain basement prices.

The trifecta of sticky problems with this are that BC's consumer demand has been decreasing as power rates rise, Alberta's rates are now far lower than BC's and wholesale power prices in the US have dipped below \$30. If 100% of Site C's power is to be exported at those prices, losses on the project could well

balloon to over \$23 billion, or \$11,500 out of the pocket of every BC ratepayer. And that's assuming borrowing rates stay below 4% for the entire 70-year period. Site C is indeed a very large gamble.

As a result of rapidly rising debt with no corresponding increases in real assets, equity will go negative. As that point, BC Hydro will be near-worthless and big, private-sector corporations will pounce and buy it for a pittance. Like vultures in a tree, eying a sick animal, they have been licking their chops for years to get their hands on North America's best hydro facilities. Once privatized, rates will be set by demand and supply. There will be no publicly-minded utility commission. And the people of the province will have lost one of their best assets and control of our electricity rates. ▶

**Eoin Finn** is a 40-year Vancouverite, a retired KPMG Management Consulting partner and a contributor to BCUC's recent Site C review. He holds a Ph.D in Physical Chemistry and an MBA in International Business. **Reimar Kroecker**, MA in Economics, taught Economics at Langara College for 30 years. He is currently retired and lives in North Vancouver. For more information: [citizensforpublicpower.ca](http://citizensforpublicpower.ca)

# Events

For rates & placements email  
[editor@commonground.ca](mailto:editor@commonground.ca)

## FEB 16-18

**Basic Holistic Hand Reflexology Certificate**  
 Weekend. 70-hour certificate course. \$375 + GST. Pacific Institute of Reflexology  
 604-875-8818, [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com)

## FEB 17

**Volunteer Fair Day at the Bethlehem Centre.**  
 Explore the grounds, explore ways to volunteer, meet new people. 1-3PM, 2371 Arbot Rd., Nanaimo. [www.bethlehemcentre.com](http://www.bethlehemcentre.com)

## FEB 17-18

**26th Annual Wellness Show:** Vancouver Convention Centre, 999 Canada Place, East Building. Sat & Sun. 250+ exhibitors, 100+ speakers. Tickets \$14.50. Seniors \$12.50. Children under 12 free. \$20/2-day pass. Tickets: <http://thewellnessshow.com/2018-tickets>

## FEB 19

**"Be True to Yourself!"** with Mandana Rastan. Energy, Intuition, Spirit Guides & more. Presented by the Inner Peace Movement. 7:30PM, John Braithwaite Community Centre, 145 W. 1st St., North Vancouver (near Seabus). \$21/door. Everyone welcome. [innerpeacemovement.ca](http://innerpeacemovement.ca)

## FEB 21

**A New World Begins:** Imagine a world without war, injustice or fear. A FREE multi-media presentation

presented by Tara Canada. 7PM, Vancouver Public Library, 350 W. Georgia, Alma VanDusen Room. [share-international.ca](http://share-international.ca), 888-278-8272.

## FEB 21

**Clearmind presents "From Crisis to Celebration: 7 Steps to a REAL Relationship"** with Catherine & Duane O'Kane. PLUS Real Relationships: An Intimate Storytelling Circle. 7-9PM, Columbia Theatre, 530 Columbia St., New Westminster. [clearmind.com](http://clearmind.com) (Free entry with display ad next page.)

## FEB 22

**"Growing Strong Girls" with Lindsay Sealey.** 6:30-8PM. FREE talk at Banyen. 3608 W 4th Ave., Vancouver. [banyen.com](http://banyen.com), 604-737-8858.

## FEB 23-24

**Heart-Mind 2018: Take Care of Yourself – The Science and Practice of Well-Being.** Langley, BC. Presented by the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace & Education. Info/registration: [www.dalailamacenter.org](http://www.dalailamacenter.org)

## MAR 2-4

**Basic Holistic Foot Reflexology Certificate**  
 Weekend Course. 70-hour certificate course. \$375+ GST. Pacific Institute of Reflexology (604) 875-8818, [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com)

## MAR 4

**Vancouver Raging Grannies** invite you to their 30th Anniversary: Songs, stories, refreshments. FREE, 2-4PM, Vancouver Public Library, 350 W. Georgia. Info: call Florence, 604-253-6331, [florenceflyn@hotmail.com](mailto:florenceflyn@hotmail.com)

## MAR 9-11

**Indian Head Massage Weekend Workshop** with Susan Allen. Course fee: \$395 + GST. Pacific Institute of Reflexology (604) 875-8818, [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com)

## MAR 10-11

**Stillness Touch Workshop** with Giorgia Milne. Experience your body's natural harmony with this illuminating, hands-on practice. New Westminster, \$350USD, [www.touchofpresence.com](http://www.touchofpresence.com); Jeannene 778-882-5435.

## MAR 16

**"Radical Dharma"** with Rev. Angel Kyodo Sensei. 6:30-8PM. Free talk at Banyen. 3608 W. 4th Ave., Vancouver. [banyen.com](http://banyen.com), 604-737-8858.

## MAR 30-APR 1

**T&T Spiritual & Wellness Connection's 7th Annual Wellness Fair:** Fri-Sun. Poirier Forum, 633 Poirier St., Coquitlam. [www.fair.tandtvancover.com](http://www.fair.tandtvancover.com), [facebook.com/tandtconnections/](https://facebook.com/tandtconnections/) Email: [info@tandtvancover.com](mailto:info@tandtvancover.com), [tandtvancover.com](http://tandtvancover.com)

## APR 8

**"Liberate Your Lineage: Healing the Generations Ahead & Behind."** A psychotherapeutic & shamanic approach to family freedom. Workshop 10-4PM, Vancouver, \$80. Info: [liberateyourlineage@gmail.com](mailto:liberateyourlineage@gmail.com)

## APR 28-29

**Become a Certified Life Coach or Executive Coach:** Century Plaza Hotel & Spa, Vancouver. This 2-day intensive will teach you everything you need to know to succeed. Register at 866-455-2155 or 403-389-1190 or [www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com](http://www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com)

## MAY 18 & 19

**Deva Premal & Miten with Manose:** The Soul of Mantra LIVE! VICTORIA May 18. VANCOUVER May 19: 7:30PM, Chan Centre. Tickets: [chancentre.com/tickets](http://chancentre.com/tickets), 604-822-2697 or at ticket office. [www.DevaPremalMiten.com](http://www.DevaPremalMiten.com)

## ONGOING

### APR 9-MAY 7

**Discover "The Wonders of the Salish Sea"** with scientists, naturalists & environmentalists. Mondays, 6:45-9PM & 2 Saturdays outdoors. Mt. Pleasant Community Centre. Register: 604-257-3080. \$35.

**Two Past Life Regressions for the price of one.** Treatment that's affordable, fast and effective. Clinical hypnosis. Extended health coverage. With Louise Evans, [sparkhypnotherapy.com](http://sparkhypnotherapy.com) 604-773-5595 or 604-522-0257.

**Past Lives & Spiritual Regressions** with Rifa Hodgson, CCHT. West Vancouver & Gibsons (Sunshine Coast). [www.lifebetweenlives.ca](http://www.lifebetweenlives.ca), [rifa@lifebetweenlives.ca](mailto:rifa@lifebetweenlives.ca), 1-888-606-8463.

## TUESDAYS

**Reflexology Student Clinic:** Enjoy a 1-hour appointment with a well trained student for only \$25. Tuesday evenings only. Contact: 604-875-8818 or [chrisshirley@pacificreflexology.com](mailto:chrisshirley@pacificreflexology.com)

## THURSDAYS

**Women's Sufi Circle:** A Contemporary Study of Ancient Wisdom. Connect with your heart, revive your spiritual being, discover hope and understand your life's purpose. 7-8:30PM. False Creek, Vancouver. RSVP [nadia@pureintentions.net](mailto:nadia@pureintentions.net)

**NON-TOXIC DRYCLEANING**

**helpinghand**  
CLEANERS

Water-based cleaning  
No perchloroethylene

**4050 Cambie St @ 25th**  
[www.helpinghandcleaners.com](http://www.helpinghandcleaners.com)  
 for cleaning pickup call:  
**604-876-5399**  
 steps away from King Edward Skytrain Stn!

Inner Peace Movement presents

**Mandana Rastan**  
**Be True To Yourself!**

Energy, Intuition, Spirit Guides & more

Monday, Feb 19, 7:30 pm  
 John Braithwaite Community Centre  
 145 W. 1st St, North Vancouver (near Seabus)  
 1½ hours • \$21/door  
 EVERYONE WELCOME  
[www.innerpeacemovement.ca](http://www.innerpeacemovement.ca)

**DREAM DESIGNS**  
 Organic natural healthy sleep

Designed & made in Vancouver, BC since 1981

Linens | Mattresses | Beddings | Bath | Yoga | Baby

Thoughtfully designed and meticulously crafted from premium organic natural materials. Healthy, comfortable, ecological, and long lasting.

Manufacturing • Wholesale • Retail  
 2749 Main St. 604.254.5012 [dreamdesigns.ca](http://dreamdesigns.ca)

**A New World Begins**  
*Imagine a world without war, injustice, or fear; where no two days are alike.*

**Wednesday February 21 7 pm**  
**VAN. PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**350 West Georgia Alma VanDusen Rm.**  
**FREE MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION**

share-international.ca  
 1.888.278.8272

The Age of Aquarius has begun and the world will be as one. To help us, our Elder Brothers — Maitreya, the World Teacher, and His group, the Masters of Wisdom — are here to guide and inspire us in the creation of a new world, where co-operation is the norm and the principle of sharing governs our affairs. With Their help, we will create a golden civilization, such as this world has never seen, built by our own hands and efforts.

**Liberate Your Lineage**  
*Healing the Generations Ahead and Behind*

A psychotherapeutic and shamanic approach to family freedom

**Sunday April 8 Vancouver 10-4pm \$80**  
 For information: [liberateyourlineage@gmail.com](mailto:liberateyourlineage@gmail.com)

Val Adamson  
 Registered Therapeutic Counsellor RTC

Sonya Weir  
 Shamanic Coach / Practitioner



## KITSILANO COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE

SLIDING SCALE \$20-\$40. You pay what you can afford. 2948 W. Broadway, Vancouver. 604-428-1260, [www.kitscommunityacupuncture.ca](http://www.kitscommunityacupuncture.ca)

## MEN'S HEALTH

INCREASE YOUR HEALTH SPAN by becoming free from negativity and cellular stress. Colin Hillstrom, BA. 604-780-0686.

## MULTIMEDIA DESIGN

FULL SERVICES: graphic design, websites, motion graphics, video production, script development. Specializing in education, sustainability, music. [www.perubluesky.ca](http://www.perubluesky.ca)

## RETREATS

SWANWICK CENTRE, Victoria – An oasis for contemplation, healing and awakening: personal retreats and group rentals. For more information, contact Ralph Tiller, Program Manager: [programs@swanwickcentre.ca](mailto:programs@swanwickcentre.ca)

## ROOMS FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL SEMINAR/MEETING ROOM in natural healing centre near Broadway/Cambie

intersection for rent evenings, weekends and weekdays. Very reasonable rent. Pacific Institute of Reflexology. [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com) (604) 875-8818.

SUITE OF TWO HEALING/CONSULTING ROOMS available part-time or full-time in well established (30 years) natural healing centre in central location near City Hall/Canada Line Stn. Very reasonable rates. Visit [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com) or call 604-875-8818.

## SHAMANIC HEALING

SHAMANIC HEALING AND COACHING: Relationships, work, emotional balance, finding meaning and purpose, rediscovering joy. One-on-one/groups – Drum journeys, Book of Life readings, chakra balancing, karma releasing. See testimonials on website. [sonyaweir@uniserve.com](mailto:sonyaweir@uniserve.com) 778-227-2939. [www.eaglefireshamaniccoaching.com](http://www.eaglefireshamaniccoaching.com)

## WELLSPRING BOWEN THERAPY

BACK/HIP/NECK PAIN, MIGRAINES, fibromyalgia, sleep issues & more; Bowen can help. First session \$37 (Reg. \$80). First 3 sessions \$135. Limited time offer. [www.wellspringbowen.com](http://www.wellspringbowen.com), 604-727-0262.

...*Science from pg. 21*

of lives that will be lost because of the damaging impacts of climate change is in the hundreds of millions; to me, it's not just a crime against humanity; it's a crime against the planet."

## Climate change denial as a crime against humanity

As cited earlier, a crime against humanity is "a deliberate act, typically as part of a systematic campaign that causes human suffering or death on a large scale."

We have established that the decades-long blocking and lying about scientific evidence on the dangers of human-caused global warming has been deliberate. So the question arises, how many people have been, or will be, hurt or killed by climate change?

Many studies have been done over time. To cite a few:

"Climate change is increasing the global burden of disease and in the year 2000 was responsible for more than 150,000 deaths worldwide. Of this disease burden, 88% fell upon children."

According to a March 2017 report from the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, "a quarter of Americans can name one way in which climate change is affecting their health. This is seen by physicians across the country."

A 15-author 2016 report from the U.S. Global Change Research Program warns that people suffering chronic diseases such as Alzheimer's, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mental illness and obesity are being threatened by climate change.

A global estimate was supplied by an independent report commissioned by 20 countries in 2012 to study the human and economic costs of climate change. The DARA study wrote that it linked 400,000 deaths worldwide to climate change each year, projecting deaths to increase to over 600,000 per year by 2030... Heat waves kill many, to be sure, but global warming also devastates food security, nutrition and water safety. Since mosquitoes and other pests thrive in hot, humid weather, scientists expect diseases like malaria and dengue fever to rise. Floods threaten to contaminate drinking water with bacteria and pollution.

When the report looked at the added health consequences from burning fossil fuels – aside from climate change – the

number of deaths jumps from 400,000 to almost five million per year. Carbon-intensive economies see deaths linked to outdoor air pollution, indoor smoke from poor ventilation, occupational hazards and skin cancer.

When disinformation known to be false is systematically used to deny dangerous realities that harm public health and kill millions of people, the deception clearly crosses the line to become a crime against humanity.

## Conclusion

The 2014 IPCC 5th assessment Summary for Policy Makers, along with previous IPCC assessments, is solid proof of the unprecedented crime represented by today's level and rate of increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas pollution. It is definite because policy makers representing all world governments sit on the IPCC Panel and before the assessment can be published, they scrutinize the assessment line-by-line for government approval.

As governments from high-emitting countries continue – against the will of their own citizens and of the nations most vulnerable to climate change – to allow the global climate catastrophe to unfold, they simply cannot say that they did not know. Participation in formulating the IPCC summaries makes the large GHG-polluting national governments undeniably culpable for their continued lack of action to bring about a rapid decline in global emissions.

Not only have they betrayed the IPCC science. While doing so, they have pampered the lucrative fossil fuel industry with trillions of dollars in subsidies worldwide. But worst of all they have failed to protect their citizens – now and for future generations. This is the crime of all time. ☐

Excerpted with permission from **Unprecedented Crime: Climate Science Denial and Game Changers for Survival** by Elizabeth Woodworth and Dr. Peter Carter (Clarity Press). Elizabeth Woodworth is a writer on climate change science and activism, co-author of **Unprecedented Climate Mobilization** and co-producer of the COP21 video **A Climate Revolution for All**. Dr. Peter Carter is founder of the Climate Emergency Institute. He served as an expert reviewer for the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifth climate change assessment in 2014. He is a former family and emergency medicine practitioner.

Bring this ad  
for FREE entry!

\$20  
@  
DOOR

**From Crisis  
to Celebration**

7 Steps to a REAL Relationship  
with Catherine & Duane OKane

PLUS:  
**Real Relationships**  
An Intimate Storytelling Circle

Wed. Feb 21, 7-9 pm  
Columbia Theatre  
530 Columbia St.  
New Westminster

**Clearmind.com**

**BANYEN**  
books & sound

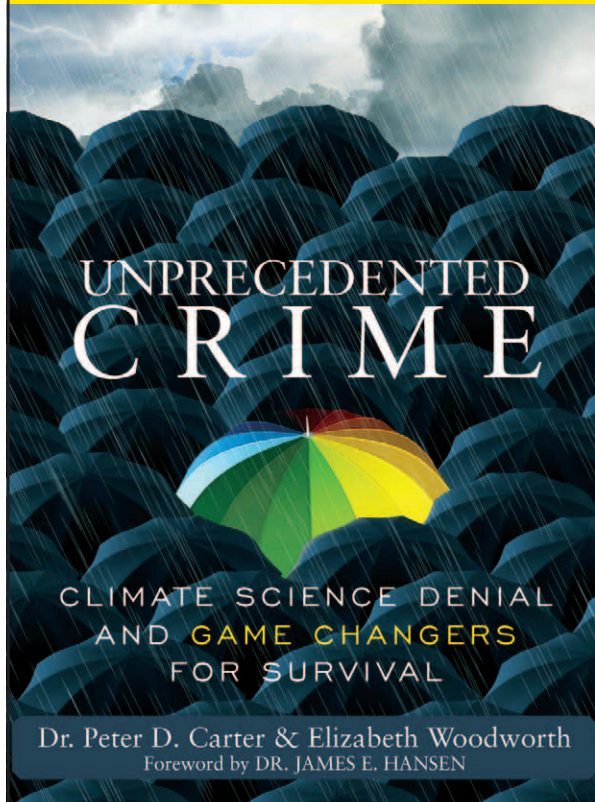
**LINDSAY SEALEY**  
**GROWING STRONG GIRLS**  
THUR, FEB 22 | 6:30-8PM  
FREE TALK AT BANYEN

**REV. ANGEL KYODO SENSEI**  
**RADICAL DHARMA**  
FRI, MARCH 16 | 6:30-8PM  
FREE TALK AT BANYEN

**banyen.com 604-737-8858**



# THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO RESISTING CLIMATE CHANGE CRIME



Peter Carter and Elizabeth Woodworth make an overwhelming case that the public, especially young people, are the victims of 'Unprecedented Crime'.

*from the Foreword by Dr. James E. Hansen*

A timely and important contribution to the debate regarding how criminal prosecutions can be used to repress and deter climate damaging conduct at the large scale and on lasting basis.

*Reinhold Gallmetzer, Appeals Counsel, International Criminal Court*

The authors map the global effort needed to survive ... an indispensable read for the citizens and policy makers who will fight for civilization's endurance and advancement.

*Lawrence Torcello, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Rochester Institute of Technology*

A last call on the fast approaching calamity for humanity and for nature.

*Dr. Andrew Y. Glikson, Earth & Paleoclimate Scientist, Australian National University*

**Available at: [www.claritypress.com/Carter](http://www.claritypress.com/Carter)**

**Amazon.com, Banyen Books & Sound**



**APRIL 17**  
QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE  
Tickets at [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca) 1-855-985-5500



**MAY 19**  
CHAN CENTRE  
TICKETS AT [chancentre.com](http://chancentre.com), 604-822-2697 OR THE TICKET OFFICE.